

OUTLOOK

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal **ONLINE**

MAY 2023

VOLUME 102 NO. 5



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce’s first round of Business 2 Business tours on April 25th, 2023 was a resounding success. The tours were designed to educate and connect local businesses with each other, to build relationships and increase customer traffic. The tours took participants to four local businesses in the area, each with their unique offerings.

The first stop on the tour was ‘That Hipster Place’, a gift shop located on Main Street, co-owned by Jerry and Kristie Carmichael. Jerry provided an insight into their products, store layout, and what makes them stand out from other retailers. Their store is known for cheeky gifts, funny cards, and unique items that always bring a smile to their customer’s faces.

The next stop was Kustom Floor Designs, which opened in 1979, with a goal of serving customers with integrity and delivering excellent customer satisfaction. Today, they provide innovative designs, quality products, and outstanding workmanship for both homes and businesses. Kustom Floor Designs also offers a large assortment of home and patio decorations, as well as wedding arrangements, making them a one-stop-shop for all your flooring and decoration needs.

The third stop on the tour was Renue Salon and Spa Beauty Boutique, a full-service salon and spa offering a variety of services from haircuts and styles to tanning and massage therapy. Renue offers a luxurious and relaxing atmosphere where customers can let the stress melt away. They also offer a full line of professional salon products from top brands like Redken, Biolage, and Aquate.

The last stop of the tour was Identifications Co., which provides customers with the opportunity to create their very own masterpieces, whether it takes the form of t-shirts, awards, or promotional products. They have state-of-the-art equipment and a team of experts that can help customers with any of their needs, from screen-printing to laser engraving.

The Business 2 Business tours provided an excellent opportunity for businesses to showcase their products and services, learn more about their peers, and build relationships that can lead to future collaborations. Participants had the opportunity to learn more about the products and services offered by their peers, which will enable them to refer customers more effectively. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is excited to continue the Business 2 Business tours, with the next round scheduled for May 9th, 2023. Businesses are yet to be announced, but participants can expect more exciting businesses to visit and learn from. Creating and referring customer traffic within the community is essential for the success of local businesses, and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to helping local businesses achieve their goals. By working together and building a network of local businesses that refer customers to each other, the community can thrive, and businesses can achieve success.



COFFEE SCHEDULE →

FEATURED AMBASSADOR →

CALENDAR →

NEW MEMBERS →

Click to jump to the story or link

Housing Opportunities, Inc. Partners with Stafford County Economic Development in the Management of Retail Properties

March 2nd, 2023. Housing Opportunities, Inc. (HOI) and Stafford County Economic Development (SCED) announced today that the two companies entered a partnership that officially began on March 1st. This will help aid the growing mission of both parties to provide available housing for our local and surrounding areas.

This agreement brings together HOI's experienced team of 7 employees, including property managers, in-house maintenance staff, and general contractor, to help assist the SCED staff with Property Management and continued maintenance work.

"HOI has been looking to expand our services and service area for some time now. When SCED approached us about taking on the management of their rental units, it was the perfect opportunity to do just that. HOI has partnered with SCED, in the past to build single family homes, and we are happy to partner with them again on this venture," said HOI's Executive Director, Callie Miller. She continued to say "This partnership supports HOI's mission by serving both low- and moderate-income families with their rental portfolio. It also opens the door to future project partnerships as SCED continues to look at ways to address Stafford County's housing

shortage. We are excited to see where this new partnership takes us!"

This partnership allows SCED to focus on their rural community by bringing more housing for Stafford County residents, and to focus on their mission for promoting economic and population growth. "Stafford County Eco Devo's rental portfolio has grown from three units to eleven in just over a year with two more houses still under construction," the Executive Director of SCED, Kathleen Norman, commented. "They (HOI) are well suited to handle the complex compliance and reporting requirements of the new rental houses which were primarily funded by two affordable housing programs."

Since 1996, HOI has been dedicated to building affordable and quality housing for the communities they serve in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, and Scott Counties. They are experienced in both development and management of safe, affordable, quality housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

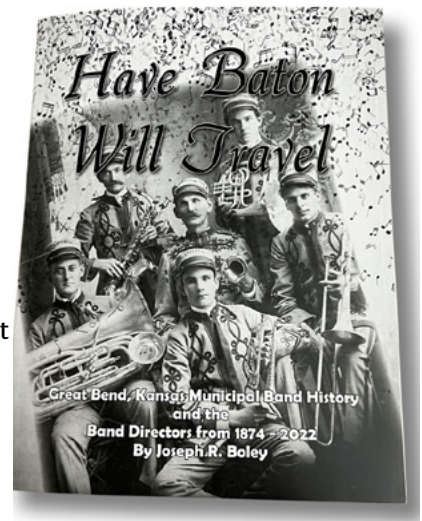


Have Baton Will Travel

Local author Joseph R. Boley has recently published a book titled "Have Baton Will Travel" about the history of the Great Bend Municipal Band and the many gentlemen who traveled with their baton and families to bring their passion for band music to communities throughout the country. The book covers the local band directors from 1874 to 2022 in Great Bend, Kansas, and is a tribute to their contributions to the city's cultural heritage.

Great Bend, was initially established as the temporary county seat in 1872, became a permanent city a few months later. By that time, there were already 42 buildings on the town site, most on the east side of the square. However, lumber had to be hauled from Ellsworth or Russell because the Missouri-Pacific Railroad line did not yet reach the area. It was only in July 1872 when the Santa Fe Railroad reached Great Bend, allowing passenger traffic and freight to arrive in the city.

Boley's book is not only a history of the Great Bend Municipal Band, but also a memory of the many local band directors who helped to bring band music to communities throughout the country. "Have Baton Will Travel" is a fitting tribute to the city's cultural heritage and the contributions of its passionate musicians.



Two Sunflower Events Support People With Disabilities; \$26,000 Raised

Sunflower Diversified Services recently combined two events that raised money for and awareness about its many programs that serve people with developmental disabilities and delays.

The 20th Annual Sunflower Pancake Feed served 470 plates on March 30 when the winner of the Chevy Trailblazer ACTIV drawing was announced.

Jason Burhenn, a Great Bend native, won the vehicle.

“A current Wichita resident, Jason purchased the raffle tickets online after a friend shared with him our Facebook post about the chance to win a new vehicle,” said Cody Harris, Sunflower director of planned giving and community support. “He was super excited and in disbelief when we called him with the news.”

Sunflower sold more than 2,700 Chevy raffle tickets that represented people from more than 30 states and raised more than \$26,000.

“This was a successful event and we look forward to doing it

again in two years,” Harris said. “We appreciate everyone who came out for pancakes and/or bought tickets for the drawing. They are all winners to us.

“Private donations are crucial to Sunflower and the people we serve,” he continued. “They help us enhance programs to accommodate our neighbors in central Kansas who need a helping hand.”

Sunflower, a non-profit agency, serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is in its 58th year.



Community Concert Campaign Boasts 7 Shows in New Season

Halfway into its 2023-2024 membership campaign, the Golden Belt Community Concert Association has two more weeks for accepting memberships. The campaign will close with two days of temporary headquarters at the Best Western Angus Inn Courtyard Thursday, May 11, and Friday, May 12. Those still needing to renew or join as new members can join in person at the headquarters from noon to 7 p.m. Thursday or from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday.

Celebrating its 85th anniversary during the 2023-2024 season, the association will offer seven concerts – one more show than the previous season yet with the same membership fee of \$50 per adult.

With the season theme *Music Through the Decades*, the seven concerts will offer a variety of music spanning decades from the 1940s into the 2020s. The music should keep members excited and looking forward to each new show.

The 2023-2024 concerts include:

- **Phat Cat Swinger** - Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023
- **Branden & James, with guest Effie Passero** - Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023
- **Here Comes the Sun** - Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023
- **Jason Lyle Black** - Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023
- **Divas 3** - Saturday, March 2, 2024
- **Abbacadabra** - ABBA Tribute - Monday, April 8, 2024
- **7,000 Miles to Broadway** - J. Robert Spencer - Friday, May 3, 2024

Season memberships can be purchased for \$50 for adults; \$10 for full-time enrolled students; \$110 for a family membership including two adults and all dependent children living in the same household; and \$110 for a grandparent package for two adults and up to four minor grandchildren. Admission to the concerts is by season membership only. No single concert tickets are available. Concerts are held at the Great Bend Municipal Auditorium, Lakin and Stone.

For the second year, the Golden Belt Community Concert Association is offering a no-cost benefit to concert association members – the GBCCA Travel Benefit. With this benefit, renewal and new members receive travel opportunities ideal for individuals, couples, families and groups of friends. The travel benefit is applicable to programs of all major cruise lines, travel companies, resorts and other travel options. Voluntary use by members will result in special savings for members and all additional members of their travel party whether or not they are GBCCA members. The association will receive a matching amount equal to the total savings realized by the member's entire travel party. Without any cost to the members or GBCCA, this program is provided and totally underwritten by Cheyenne Travel Agency Inc./Please Go Away Vacations.



Cowan VICE PRESIDENT of Board of Directors for United Way of Central Kansas

United Way of Central Kansas announced this week the appointment of Patrick Cowan to their Executive Board of Directors in the role of vice-president. Cowan joined the UWCK team in 2017 as a co-chair. In 2018, he accepted a position on the board and has been a vital member of the board in the years since. In his time with UWCK, Cowan has helped with individual fundraisers by volunteering his time at events such as the Kickoff and the Hoisington Tailgate as well as offering valuable input in regards to programs, partnerships, and donors. His knowledge of the community is also integral to determining the needs of the community and how best to affect change. Cowan, while growing up in the Kansas City area, has always had family roots in Barton County, and moved here in 2008. He has been with Adams Brown since 2014 and is currently their network administrator. When asked why he chooses to volunteer with United Way of Central Kansas he said "While serving as a co-chair I got a chance to see how many good things the United Way was doing locally and how many lives were being impacted by their programs and community partners. I knew I had to continue to be a part of something so awesome going on in our community." Mark Mingenback stepped down from the Executive Board as vice-president after serving in that role for six years. Mingenback will continue to serve on the UWCK Board of Directors.



Brewer Named New Executive Vice President at People's Bank & Trust

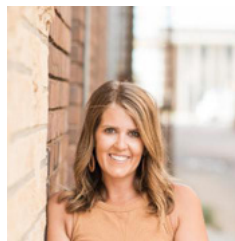
Help us congratulate Bryce Brewer on his new role. Bryce has been promoted to the position of Executive Vice President.

"Bryce has been a tremendous asset to Peoples Bank and Trust for the past 26 years. His forward thinking and leadership skills have helped to keep us on the leading edge of community banking," said Tom Pruitt, President and CEO of Peoples Bank and Trust. "I truly believe that Bryce will continue to make major contributions to the Bank that will help us continue to grow into the future". Since joining Peoples Bank and Trust in 1997, Bryce has held several leadership positions with the Bank, including IT, Marketing, Human Resources, Online Banking, Mergers and Acquisitions and Facilities. In addition to being Executive Vice President, Bryce also currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer. Peoples Bank and Trust has 17 locations in Kansas. Visit www.peoples.bank for more information.



Wells Earns Elite Level Recognition

President & CEO Liz Gehringer of Coldwell Banker Real Estate congratulates Megan Wells of Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate on her exceptional sales performance that ranks her among the top Coldwell Banker independent sales professionals across the globe. Presented to her is the International President's Circle that ranks her in the top 5%. This remarkable achievement is well deserved, Gehringer said. Her expertise, market knowledge and dedication to client separates her from her peers and helped her earn her place among the top agents companywide. Wells has been involved as a Great Bend Chamber Ambassador, serves on the CASA Chocolate Auction Committee, is involved in other community activities and loves to promote Great Bend and Barton County. Glenna Achatz and Kim Vink, brokers of Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate, congratulate her on her exceptional performance which exemplifies the best and the brightest in real estate today. She is dedicated to being a trusted real estate advisor to her customers, lenders and other real estate industry professionals. Glenna and Kim applaud her on her natural ability to communicate with her customers helping them find their dream home.



Courtesy: Great Bend Tribune



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GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEATURED AMBASSADOR

Lee Ann June

**Great Bend Economic
Development**

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

My parents moved the family to GBK when I was almost 2 years old from Ithaca, NY. After graduating from GBHS, I later started and ran a dance studio for 9 years, and now I have 2 children (Clarissa 16, and Leo 13). Our family and support systems are here, and I'm happy to call GBK my home.

Where do you work and what do you do there (describe your role)?

As the Communications Director for Great Bend Economic Development, marketing, communications, and event coordination are in my purview. Be sure to follow @GBEDinc on social media, as well as, Great Bend Alive! Another way to connect to us is on our website (www.gbedinc.com), and/or subscribe to our newsletter and get monthly updates. I assist with putting plans into action with our 32 volunteers in Great Bend Alive, as well as taking cues from our GBED board and of course our fearless leader and President of GBED, Sara Arnberger. Economic Development partners with so many great organizations and businesses in the area. Being county-wide, it allows GBED to assist businesses across our area, so don't let the name fool you. We are here for Barton County!

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

One thing that might surprise people is that I like to play guitar and ukulele. Back yard jammin' or playing with my friends, the ShMartys in Wilson, is always a good time.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

I love my kiddos, art, music, dance, and honestly, good people. This new position with GBED has shown me more and more people that want to be a part of positive change in our community. And to witness people sharing their precious free time to help GBED and/or GB Alive is inspiring! Keep it going GBK!

At what job, would you be terrible?

Umpire, referee, line judge... anything where I would need to know all the rules for a sporting event. Having to make sure all were following the rules. That is not my thing. I want everyone to have fun and do their best. More than once I have cheered for the wrong team because whatever they did was impressive. #GoSportsTeams #IHopeTheyAllHaveFun



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

This is my first year as an ambassador. I was in charge of coordinating the Ambassador group when I worked for the Chamber, so I knew it would be a great group to be a part of when I was asked at the end of 2022. I love being a part of a group that is here to help be the voice for the Chamber.

About the Ambassadors:

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce 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.

Learn more: www.greatbend.org/ambassadors



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1990 2023

Clara Barton Hospital Foundation
30TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT, DINNER & AUCTION

GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH

DINNER & LIVE AUCTION
SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH

ONLINE AUCTION
JUNE 16TH - 17TH

For more information, to register, or purchase dinner tickets,

CLICK HERE!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE FOUNDATION AT 620-292-0814

We Are Maurices! maurices

As we head into the summer season, Maurices in Great Bend is gearing up for some exciting events. From shopping for special occasions to celebrating their 15th anniversary, there's something for everyone.

May is a busy month for Maurices, as shoppers start looking for outfits for graduations, baptisms, weddings, and other events. With a wide variety of casual and dressy gear for the season, customers are sure to find the perfect outfit to make them feel confident and stylish.

June 14th marks a special day for Maurices in Great Bend, as it will be their 15th year anniversary with their current location. To celebrate, Yo Dog Wieners will be parked outside the store, serving up delicious food. Maurices will also be announcing giveaways and special offers closer to the date, so be sure to mark your calendars and stop by to celebrate with them.

At Maurices, it's more than just clothes. They believe in putting people first and supporting the communities they live and love. They strive to make shopping more than just free time, but the best "me time" of your day. Maurices wants customers to feel like this is their place and that they have their back, no matter how crazy life gets.

"We are your people. And no matter how crazy life gets, we've got you. Because we believe in putting people first. In giving back and supporting the communities we live and love. From our hometown to your hometown... Real, amazing, everyday women deserve real, amazing service, every day," says the Maurices team.

If you're looking for a new outfit or just want to celebrate with Maurices in Great Bend, stop by and see what they have to offer. Real, amazing, everyday women deserve real, amazing service, and that's exactly what Maurices provides.

Give Local Support Local with United Way

Give Local
SUPPORT LOCAL
Win gift cards for across Central Kansas valued at over \$1,700!

1 ticket for \$10
6 tickets for \$50

- Country Seasons Flower Shoppe, \$50
- Dairy Queen-Hoisington, \$50
- Dillons, \$80
- Dress It Up, \$50
- Dry Lake Brewing, \$50
- Edwards Street Brew & Bites, \$50
- Ellinwood Packing Plant, \$50
- Freaking Delicious Cheesecake, \$15
- Gather, \$25
- G-B Tire, \$100
- Great Bend Coffee, \$30
- Heart of Kansas/Miss Pretty Pickles, \$100
- Kansas Earth & Sky, \$75
- LK's Liquor, \$50
- Marmies, \$50
- McDonalds, \$50
- Mi Tierra, \$50
- Nana's Place, \$25
- NiBloom Floral, \$25
- My Favorite Furnishings, \$50
- Off Broadway Boutique, \$50
- Office Products, Inc, \$50
- P&S Security, \$50
- Perkins, \$50
- Renue Salon & Spa, \$50
- RePerks/Tellers 1872, \$50
- The Beauty Bar, \$50
- The Farmhouse, \$20
- The Page American Bistro, \$50
- Town & Country Supermarket, \$50
- Two Chicks & Some Old Bird, \$25
- Walnut Bowl, \$50
- Wolf Hotel, \$25
- Yours Truly, \$50
- Zip Service, \$100

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United Way of Central Kansas

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SCAN ME

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

United Way of Central Kansas, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families in Barton and Pawnee Counties, has launched a new raffle drawing that offers a great opportunity to both give and support local. With just \$10 per ticket or 6 for \$50, individuals can be entered to win over \$1,700 in gift cards to 35 local businesses that have generously donated to UWCK. This raffle drawing not only gives individuals a chance to win some amazing prizes but also provides a platform for them to show their support for the local businesses that are the backbone of their community. By participating in this raffle, individuals are not only investing in the local economy but also in the people and the communities that make it all possible. To purchase tickets for the raffle, interested individuals can call 620-792-2403 or stop by the UWCK office located at 1125 Williams. Additionally, they can reach out to a UWCK board member or purchase tickets online at <https://www.uwck.org/news/give-local-support-local>. Supporting local businesses not only benefits the community but also creates a ripple effect that contributes to the overall growth and development of the region. When businesses thrive, the community thrives, and when the community thrives, everyone benefits. So let's come together and show our support for local businesses and communities by participating in the United Way of Central Kansas' raffle drawing. Give Local. Support Local.

Annual Cinco De Mayo Festival Set to Take Place May 6th In Jack Kilby Square

The 30th annual Cinco De Mayo Festival is set to take place in downtown Jack Kilby Square on May 6th, 2023, from 11am-7pm. This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever before, with lots of exciting activities and attractions for the whole family. One of the main attractions of the festival is the live music, which will be provided by Los Traficantes Del Norte. This popular band is known for its high-energy performances, and their music is sure to get everyone up and dancing. The festival will also feature local food vendors, serving up delicious, authentic Mexican cuisine to satisfy your appetite. Whether you're in the mood for tacos, burritos, or tamales, there will be something to suit every taste. In addition to the music and food, there will be plenty of entertainment to keep everyone engaged throughout the day. There will be dancing, games, and other activities that are sure to delight both kids and adults alike. The festival organizers have put a lot of thought into making sure that there's something for everyone at this event.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce will have its own booth at the festival, so be sure to stop by and visit with us. We'll be serving up cotton candy and hosting a giveaway for a chance to win gift baskets with items from local businesses, as well as pinatas for the kids to enjoy. It's a great opportunity to meet with members of the community and learn more about what the Chamber is doing to support local businesses.

Megan Barfield, the CEO/President of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, had this to say about the event: "It's a great opportunity for people to come together and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of our community. We're thrilled to be a part of this event, and we hope to see you all there!"

This event is free and open to the public, so mark your calendars for May 6th, 2023, and come join the fun. It's a great way to spend a day with family and friends, while also learning more about the culture and traditions of Mexico. For more information about the Cinco De Mayo Festival, please visit their Facebook Page. We hope to see you there!



GREAT BEND
SATURDAY MAY 6TH, 2023
JACK KILBY SQUARE
CINCO DE MAYO
11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Parade at 11:00 am
Music Vendors, food,
Dancing and Entertainment

For more information contact
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LOS TRAFICANTES DEL NORTE

Sponsors: CMI, Yeraldis boutique, STUEDER, MARMIES, Los Cabos, Walmart.

Great Bend Chamber Introduces "Spanish Without Barriers," Event

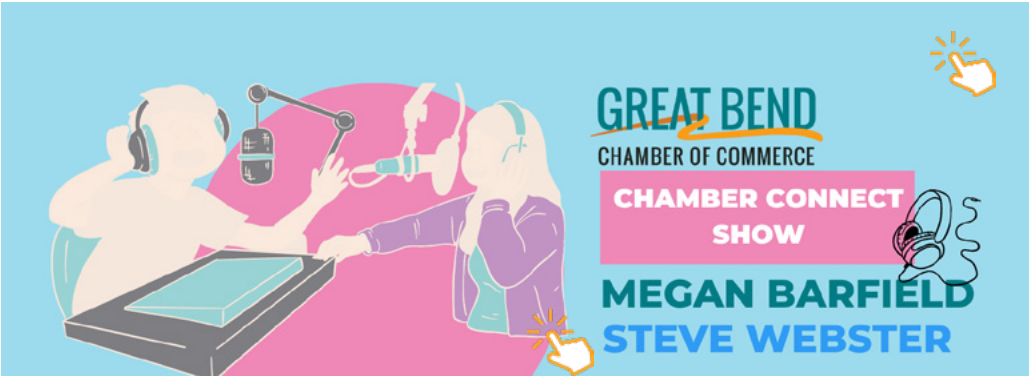
The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the launch of "Spanish Without Barriers," a new event aimed at creating a safe and supportive environment for individuals to practice their Spanish language skills without fear of judgment or criticism. The event is open to anyone, regardless of their current level of Spanish proficiency, and is designed to provide a platform for individuals to practice their skills and help others looking to improve their abilities. The Chamber hopes that the event will encourage people to practice their Spanish skills and ultimately build stronger relationships within the Hispanic community. The first event will be hosted at the Chamber located at 1125 Williams St. and will feature different snacks and foods from a featured Spanish-speaking country. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with other individuals, practice their language skills and enjoy some snacks. "We are excited to offer this event to our community," said Chamber Communications Coordinator, Edith Solorzano. "We believe that creating a space where people can practice their Spanish language skills without fear of judgment or criticism is an important step towards building a more inclusive and connected community."

The Chamber hopes that this event will be the first of many and that it will eventually expand to different stores, restaurants, and other places within the Hispanic community where people can practice their Spanish language skills with those who speak it best. The "Spanish Without Barriers" event is a great opportunity for anyone looking to improve their Spanish language skills and connect with others in the community. The Chamber invites everyone to attend and hopes to see a large turnout for this exciting event. For more information about "Spanish Without Barriers," please visit the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce website or contact us at marketing@greatbend.org.

Spanish Without Barriers
May 23rd 4-5pm

Chamber Connect Show: CEO Megan Barfield

Listen to this month's Chamber Connect Show with Eagle Radio's Steve Webster and Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ceo Megan Barfield that aired April 6th, 2023.



The Wall That Heals

The Wall That Heals, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., will make its only stop in Kansas this year at Great Bend's Veterans Memorial Park. The Wall will be on display from **May 9th to May 14th, 2023**, and is set to arrive in Great Bend on **May 9th**.

The Wall That Heals will be making only 32 stops throughout the United States this year, so it is a great honor for Great Bend to be the only stop in Kansas. The Wall will be transported into town on a semi-trailer, escorted by a motorcade of 150-200 motorcycles. The motorcade will be heading north on Main Street and proceeding west on 24th Street toward Al Burns Field at Veterans Memorial Park, where it will make its final stop for the week. The public is invited to join the welcoming committee by waving American flags and wearing patriotic colors to show their appreciation for the Vietnam War veterans.

The construction of the Wall will begin on May 10th, and volunteers are desperately needed to help make this happen. Volunteers can sign up by visiting the Great Bend Convention & Visitor's Bureau website or by calling (620) 792-2750.

On May 11th, the Wall That Heals will have its opening ceremonies, which will be presided over by Secretary of State Scott Schwab. The schedule and details of the event can be found on the Explore Great Bend website.

The Wall will be on display until May 14th, and the closing ceremonies will be held on that day. This is a rare opportunity for Kansans to honor and pay respect to those who served during the Vietnam War, and Great Bend is proud to host The Wall That Heals.

Check out our Tiktok!

Follow Us @greatbendchamber



58,281 NAMES ON THE WALL	1,500 SERVICES REQUESTED UNACCOUNTED FOR FROM THE VIETNAM WAR
8 MILES LONG WALL	375 ft. LENGTH OF WALL
700 CITIES TWTH HAS VISITED	22 yrs, 9 mos AGE OF THE WALL
400,000+ ITEMS LEFT AT THE WALL	15 SETS OF THE WALL
42 SETS OF THE WALL	3 SETS OF THE WALL
246 MONEY DONATED FOR THE WALL	

THE WALL THAT HEALS
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER
A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL
GREAT BEND, KS
MAY 11-14 2023 | AL BURNS FIELD

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND MISSION
To honor and preserve the legacy of service in American and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era. We **honor** the service of all, **preserve** the memory of those who died during the war and since returning home, and **educate** all generations about the lasting impact of the war.

YP BARTON COUNTY Young Professionals
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Great Bend ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
A Barton County Partnership for Growth

Who: Young Professionals
What: IGNITE Infotainment/Networking Mixer
When: May 17 from 5-7pm
Where: Dry Lake Brewing

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Barton Community College hosts “STEM Buddies” mentor program

Nine Barton Community College students have spent the last semester working with students at Ellinwood Grade School (EGS) as part of the new after-school “STEM Buddies” program, which includes various activities, games, and of course, snacks. The STEM Buddies program met right after school three times a week over the course of ten weeks at (EGS). Sixteen Ellinwood students in grades third through sixth were partnered with Barton students to complete activities and games focused on the development of math skills. Biology instructor Charlotte Cates said the program is mutually beneficial for all involved. “STEM Buddies is providing life experiences and skill development for both groups,” she said. “The elementary students are developing math skills, critical thinking skills, and positive experiences with young role models who support learning and a love of math, while the Barton students are developing classroom management skills, math-education skills, and can learn about their roles and abilities in a child’s education. Many of these Barton students have expressed an interest in teaching within the STEM field. This first-hand experience allows them to make informed decisions about their career path and allows them to list that experience on scholarship, school, and future job applications.” Ellinwood Grade School (EGS) Principal Joel Kahnt said the program has been a positive experience for the students and the school. “We are so excited that we were able to partner with Barton,” he said. “We appreciate the leadership the Barton students and sponsors have given our kids and EGS. STEM is an important part of education today, and giving our students an experience outside of the classroom has been fantastic.” Executive Director of Foundational Education Stephanie Joiner said community support is at the core of the College’s mission. “The mission reads, ‘Barton offers exceptional and affordable learning opportunities supporting student, community, and employee needs,’” she said. “Ellinwood is a community partner. Their students become our students. The short-term gains for community support can be seen in the positive response of the Ellinwood grade schoolers as they are participating in STEM Buddies, and the potential long-term gains will be realized as those students continue to pursue an education and career in the STEM field. Their educational path can begin right here at Barton, in their community. Additionally, I live in Ellinwood. I know these kids, and I know their families. My kids enjoy the benefits of EGS. I want to see Ellinwood schools and students flourish as much as I want to see Barton recognized for the quality education it provides.” For more information, contact Joiner at joiners@bartonccc.edu or (620)792-9238.

At What Price Peace?

One of the many countries where the Star of Hope makes a difference, is Haiti. Found on the western half of the island of Hispaniola, located southeast of Florida, just east of Cuba, Haiti has a colorful history of feast and famine. Unfortunately, at this point, Haiti is mostly in famine. With the break-down of the government in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, various rival gangs are now ruling the city, the communications, and the roads leading from the city into the surrounding countryside. Three of the schools run by Star of Hope are just north and east of the capital and are most affected by the disruption of services. Communications with them are spotty at best and travel to and from them is often dangerous. The remaining four schools are located in southern Haiti, at a greater distance from the capital. While this decreases the danger from the violence, it increases the cost of supplies which typically come from the shipping centers in Port-au-Prince.

The school has become the center for the community and development flows from it. Community Development and Humanitarian Aid have included school buildings, a playground, two cisterns for water, agricultural items (such as seed, tools, and animals), teacher training programs, and education sponsorship support. The school has a staff of twenty-two with around five hundred students and is run in partnership with the local Pentecostal Christian Church. Many of the students would like to attend school for the optimal thirteen years which would include preparation for university studies. Graduating from ninth grade allows students to attend a vocational school to learn a trade. Unfortunately, the cost of the extended schooling is very high, and it is felt to be a more efficient use of funds to educate a greater number of students through ninth grade.

Hesse is located west of the capital and is a larger community of about 20,000. The school in this community allows students to go through ten grades. The school was destroyed in an earthquake but was rebuilt in 2012 by Star of Hope and can hold 450 children with thirty-three staff. The programs running through this school focus on health, education, environment, energy, and roads. The hope is to build this school up to where it will allow students to attend thirteen years and move into university studies. This school partners with the Baptist church. An area of great sadness is that of the school lunches. Because food is so expensive due to the disruption of the food distribution chains, students today only have four lunches a week during school. Part of the problem is the cost of gasoline. Because one must travel by way of the back roads for safety issues, the travel time is longer which increases the cost of everything.

Although Hess has solar power, Bois Negresse uses charcoal but because charcoal is so difficult to obtain, one of the great needs of the school in Bois Negresse is the conversion to gas. Hesse could use a playground instead. Both the schools in Bois Negresse and Hesse need backpacks for the students to carry their supplies, fresh books for the libraries, and internet service. Water wells and reservoirs are also needed at both schools.

Peace is important for a country and an individual to grow and to thrive. The best route to obtain peace is through the education of the citizenry. Peace doesn’t come cheaply but it is worth the price. To see our children healthy and well-fed, nurtured in mind, body, and spirit, is a good goal to reach. We invite you to join Star of Hope to reach this goal. Please check out our website at www.starofhope.us for monetary donations or other resources. Or just scan the QR code below.



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

Ribbon Cuttings!



Tellers 1872

Dennis & Rick cut the red ribbon on Thursday, April 6th. Tellers offer a unique dining experience that provides a glimpse into the history and beginning of Great Bend. Tellers 1872 offers a wide range of comfort food items, as well as prime rib, steak, cordon bleu, and some of the best desserts in town. The restaurant's customer base includes anyone looking for a delicious meal in a welcoming atmosphere. With eleven employees, Tellers 1872 serves between 25 and 100 customers on any given day. Located at 1919 Lakin St, customers can get more information and learn more about the restaurant's unique offerings by visiting www.tellersingreatbend.com. The restaurant operates solely in Kansas and can be reached by phone at 620-786-2334 or by email at reperksgb@gmail.com. In addition to providing excellent food and service, they are committed to giving back to the community. The restaurant regularly partners with local agencies to improve the lives of disadvantaged Great Bend residents, including people and pets in need. Co-owner Dennis Crouse is excited to share his passion for good food and local history with the community. "We are thrilled to be opening Tellers 1872 and sharing our unique dining experience with the people of Great Bend. We hope to create a welcoming atmosphere where everyone can enjoy delicious food and learn a little bit about the history of our town." For more information about Tellers 1872 or to make a reservation, please visit www.tellersingreatbend.com or call 620-786-2334.

ARE YOU GROWING YOUR TEAM?

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Sunrise Staffing Service LLC



On April 13th, Sunrise Staff cut the red ribbon in celebration of their new owners Chris & Melanie Ryan! Sunrise Staffing Services LLC is a full-service staffing agency with offices in Great Bend, Liberal, and Dodge City. The company has been providing flexible staffing services for 30 years and is fully equipped to provide temporary, temporary-to-hire, and direct placement staffing to virtually all types of businesses. The new owners, Chris and Melanie Ryan, are committed to maintaining the company's excellent customer service and flexibility and look forward to continuing Sunrise's foundational relationships with customers that have lasted over 20 years. Chris Ryan, the new President and Owner of Sunrise Staffing Services LLC, is not new to the company. He was employed with Sunrise for 25 years before purchasing the company with Melanie upon Cynthia Kruse's retirement. "Mel and I are

excited about the new chapter at Sunrise. We have an excellent team of professionals always ready to assist with all of your staffing needs," said Chris Ryan. Sunrise Staffing Services LLC currently serves over 30 customers and operates in two states, Kansas and Oklahoma. The company can be contacted at (620) 792-1004 or (800) 239-1809, and their website is www.sunrifestaffingservices.com.



Ribbon Cuttings!



Great Bend Alive

Great Bend Alive, the downtown development arm of Great Bend Economic Development, celebrated their 3rd season of Fridays on Forest with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce on April 28th, 2023. The event took place on Forest Avenue, from Williams St. to Main St. Lee Ann June, Communications Director of Great Bend Economic Development, stated, “We are thrilled to bring back Fridays on Forest for its 3rd season, and we can’t wait to celebrate with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and our community. The event promises to be a fantastic evening of live music, delicious food, and great company, all set in the heart of downtown Great Bend.” Fridays on Forest is a monthly free concert event that runs from April to October on the last Friday of the month. Lovegrass Music Festival Association has partnered with Great Bend Alive to bring three highly acclaimed bands: Gravel Yard from Arkansas, the Brook Blanche Band from Wichita, and Old Fangled from Lawrence, KS. The event was sponsored by Marmies Auto Group. In addition to the fantastic music, attendees can enjoy food from popular vendors such as Lumpy’s, Los Dos Potrillo’s, Brand 17 BBQ, Mock N’Roll, RePerks, and Yo Dog Wieners, as well as alcohol vendors, including Los Dos Potrillo’s, Lumpy’s, Charlie’s Place, and Dry Lake Brewing. Great Bend Alive has been designated as a Kansas Main Street Program by the Kansas Department of Commerce. As the downtown development arm of Great Bend Economic Development, they have a focus on historic preservation, events/promotion, development/economic vitality, and design/streetscape. For more information about Great Bend Alive and Fridays on Forest, visit their website at www.gbbedinc.com/gbalive or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. You can also contact them at marketing@gbbedinc.com or call 620-796-2407.

\$30 Million in New Grants for Kansas Healthcare, Aviation & Manufacturing Sectors

The Kansas Department of Commerce recently announced the creation of new workforce grant programs totaling \$30 million under the Aviation Learning Opportunities & Funded Training (ALOFT) and Delivering Residents and Workforce (DRAW) grant programs. Local businesses welcomed the announcement as a much-needed boost to their efforts to attract and retain top talent. The grant programs will fund various workforce development initiatives, including training programs for in-demand skills, apprenticeships, internships and other workforce development projects. The funding will be available to businesses, non-profit organizations and educational institutions across the state. The new grant programs come at a critical time for Kansas businesses as they continue to grapple with a tight labor market and a shortage of skilled workers. By funding workforce development initiatives, the programs aim to equip businesses with the tools and resources to build a robust and resilient workforce that can drive economic growth and innovation. The DRAW program will provide \$10 million in funding for training development for high-demand employers, such as healthcare, education, technology-based and entities working with persons with disabilities. DRAW eligible uses include:

- **Construction costs for on-site training facilities**
- **Machinery, supplies, technologies and equipment solely for training purposes**
- **Vendor training on machinery and equipment**
- **Supervisor and management salaries directly related to training**
- **Course development costs and services for the development of in-house training**

Click here to view the DRAW program application.

The ALOFT program will provide \$20 million in funding for training development and expansions requiring new job opportunities in the aviation and supply chain manufacturing industries. ALOFT eligible uses include:

- **All of the above DRAW eligible uses.**
- **Youth training services and costs related to early interest development in aviation and aerospace industries.**
- **Participation costs in the Kansas Registered Apprenticeship and Workforce AID programs.**

Click here to view the ALOFT program application.

Local businesses should use these grant programs to invest in their workforce and stay competitive in the marketplace.

Contact an Adams Brown advisor to learn more.



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**CHAMBER
COFFEE
SCHEDULE**

Every Thursday! Doors open at 9am, program at 9:30am

Can't make it in person? Watch on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel

May 4th, 2023

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2123 Forest Ave.

We are a group of believers on a journey to GROW in Faith, SHARE in Worship, and SERVE Others. You may know us by our red brick building at the corner of Forest and Stone, it's here we have a long, proud history of serving the people of Great Bend and sharing God's message of Hope. Visit Us to find out more about our family of faith. Our worship services invite people of all ages to gather and participate in

worship styles from traditional to more contemporary.

May 11th, 2023

DRY LAKE BREWING

1305 Main St.

Craft Brewery located in Great Bend, KS providing full bar service including wine. Featuring a family friendly atmosphere utilizing caterers and food trucks as available. Come relax with us!

May 18th, 2023

THE CENTER FOR COUNSELING

1225 Patton Rd.

The Center for Counseling and Consultation provides professional, licensed mental health services to the Great Bend, Larned, Lyons, and Central Kansas area. The Center's mission is to promote mental health through cultivating help, hope and healing by providing quality care and education with integrity, dedication and compassion. Temporary changes in operations due to COVID-19 are in place to insure a healthy and safe environment. These include offering services using telehealth and a brief health screening before entering the building. The Center is dedicated to continue to safely provide the vital mental health services that are increasingly necessary during these difficult times.

May 25th, 2023

SHULL CONSTRUCTION

1004 Roosevelt St.

At Shull Construction, we value honesty, professionalism, and family more than we value the almighty dollar. From start to finish, we handle your roof replacement with the care you deserve. Our friendly sales staff is dedicated to giving you helpful consultations, quick and accurate free roofing estimates, and timely service. Whether it's a residential or commercial project, a Shull Construction project is guaranteed to stand the test of time. We are committed to offering you the best-in-class roof construction services, educating you on the roof construction process, and providing roof repair that you can rely on. Whether big or small, your project is important to us.

June 1st, 2023

HOUSING OPPORTUNITES

1313 Stone St.

Housing Opportunities Inc. (HOI) has been dedicated to improving the housing conditions in Central Kansas since 1996. HOI has developed 61 homeownership homes, 16 rental properties with 188 units dedicated to seniors, and 20 family rent-to-own homes.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

HIGHLIGHTED MAY EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

1-7...Small Business Week

1...Barton County Fair Yoder Pie Sale, On sale now until June 16th, Order online at greatbend.org

1-4...CKCA Kindergarten Round-Up Screening, 215 Mckinley St., Register at ckcademy.com

2...Shop Talk In 90: **S.W.O.T. Deep Dive With Kimberly Becker, Chamber (1125 Williams St.), 11:30-1pm**

4...Chamber Coffee: **First United Methodist Church, 2123 Forest Ave., Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**

5...Downtown Art & Wine Walk, Visit participating stores, 8-5pm

6...Annual Sunglass Show, 10th St Eyecare Center, 9am-1pm

6...Cinco De Mayo Festival, Jack Kilby Square, 11-7pm

9...Business 2 Business Tours, TBA, 8:30-10am or 7-8:30pm

11...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: **Dry Lake Brewing, 1305 Main St., Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**

11-14...The Wall That Heals, Al Burns Field (Vets Park), Open 24 hours

13...5th Annual Paws & Claws Car Show, Brit Spaugh Park & Zoo, 12-4pm

18...Chamber Coffee: **The Center for Counseling, 1225 Patton Rd., Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**

20...Laundry Love, Discount Laundry (924 Jefferson St.), 10-2pm

21...GBHS Graduation, GBHS Memorial Stadium, 5pm

25...Chamber Coffee: **Shull Construction, 1004 Roosevelt St., Doors open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**

26...Fridays on Forest, Forest Avenue (Williams to Main), 5-9pm

26...Military & First Responders Night Out, 916 Williams St., 6-8pm

**NEW?
SUBMIT
YOUR
NEWS HERE!**

SCAN ME

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COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT? NO
PROBLEM! SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE AND
LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR
BUSINESS AND WE'LL DO THE REST!**

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1209 Williams St., 6:30pm

Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Wednesday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am

Can't make it to the Weekly Chamber Coffee, watch online: [The Chamber's Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#)

Visit greatbend.org/events/calendar for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!

Join us for an

OPEN HOUSE

**WEDNESDAY,
MAY 10TH
4:00 - 7:00 PM**



REFRESHMENTS - DOOR PRIZES - FACILITY TOURS



FACILITY TOURS

- Lobby/Front Entrance
- Surgical Clinic
- Respiratory Therapy/Cardiac Rehab
- Imaging Suite
- Surgery
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