

OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Welcoming New Business to Great Bend



Celebrating the Grand Opening of the Holiday Inn Express & Suites

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites celebrated its grand opening Thursday, March 17. Noble Hospitality Inc. is managing the development of the new Holiday Inn Express and President Colin Noble feels the hotel will have a big impact on those coming to Great Bend. The hotel features two meeting rooms, an indoor pool, fitness center, and other guest amenities.



Community Members Celebrate the Opening of the New Amber Meadows Housing Development

Amber Meadows housing development north of Veterans Memorial Park is starting to take off. Ross Vogel, President of Rural Housing Partners, built 10 homes in the new neighborhood off 24th Street. A ribbon cutting was held at 2251 Prairie Rose Drive Wednesday, March 9 where everyone was able to tour the new home. Vogel told those in attendance that there would be a need for more development in the future.



New Renovations and a New Name for the former America's Best Value Inn

Quality Inn Hotel formerly known as Americans Best Value Inn has gotten a complete renovation thanks to Owner, Kelly Patel. Over the course of 6 weeks, they worked tirelessly with local business to help breathe new life back into the property. However, the renovations are not the only major change to take place. Formerly known as America's Best Value Inn the property has been re-named Quality Inn and is now recognized as a Choice Hotel.



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5th Annual GREAT BEND FARM & RANCH EXPO April 6-8, 2016

Wednesday, April 6th

Show Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Daily- Horse Training Demonstrations Featuring Scott Daily

Daily- Drone Demonstrations (Infield)

Daily- Stock Dog Demonstrations (infield)

9:00 a.m. Expo Opens

10:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies (Expo III)

11:00 a.m. Beer Garden Opens (Expo III)

12:00 p.m. K-State Presentation Dr. Sarah Zukoff representing the insect program and Dr. Wendy Johnson representing MyFields.com (Expo III)

5:00 p.m. Show Closes

Thursday, April 7th

Show Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Daily- Horse Training Demonstrations Featuring Scott Daily

Daily- Drone Demonstrations (Infield)

Daily- Stock Dog Demonstrations (infield)

9:00 a.m. Expo Opens

11:00 a.m. Beer Garden Opens (Expo III)

12:00 p.m. K-State Presentation Mark Wood, Extension Agricultural Economist on "Finding Profitability"

1:00 p.m. Ebert Ranch Chute Side A.I. Demonstration (Infield)

7:00 p.m. Show Closes

Friday, April 8th

Show Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Daily- Horse Training Demonstrations Featuring Scott Daily

Daily- Drone Demonstrations (Infield)

Daily- Stock Dog Demonstrations (infield)

9:00 a.m. Show Opens

11:00 a.m. Beer Garden Opens (Expo III)

12:00-4:00 p.m. Peterson Farm Brothers (Expo III)

4:00 p.m. Show Closes

5th Annual Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo

The 5th Annual Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo will return to our community April 6-8, 2016 – bigger and better than ever. The 700+ exhibitors from 27 states and Canada and Australia spread out over 80 acres and draws thousands of spectators to the annual event, which takes place at the Great Bend Expo Complex located 2.5 miles west of Great Bend's City limits on West Barton County Road.

"Great Bend is the ideal community for an agricultural show like this, because of our deep roots in the farming and ranching industries. And we have an eager, supportive volunteer base to make our exhibitors and farmers feel welcome." Said Jan Westfall.

The Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo is a proud partner of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The Expo is brought to you by these fine sponsors: KSN, the Great Bend Co-op Association, and The American Hat Company.

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Barton Community College Awarded State Contract to Serve as CDL Test Site

Barton Community College has been awarded a contract to serve as a CDL test site. The contract is with the Kansas Department of Revenue. Additional staff training will begin soon and logistics will be finalized in the coming months.

Having the ability to test will allow Barton Community College to complete all aspects of Commercial Driver's License training on-site.



Executive Director of Workforce Training and Economic Development Mary Foley said the contract is beneficial for students and area businesses.

"Students will no longer have to travel to an alternate testing site to complete the driving test," she said. "The community of Great Bend and the surrounding towns will also have the benefit of having a local test site. Businesses with employees needing their CDL for their job will no longer be a need to drive over an hour to test, which will get employees back to work more quickly."

Barton will provide testing for Barton students only at first, and will expand opportunities to others seeking their CDL that just need a testing site in the coming months. The program started in May 2015 and has been very popular. There is currently a waiting list to get into the class.

Foley said they would like to get a new truck so more students can be served but need to secure funding first.

All funding for the program came from the Barton Community College Foundation, primarily from the William C. Wells Trust plus additional funding from Central Prairie Co-op and Land O'Lakes Foundation.

For more information, contact Executive Director of Workforce Training and Economic Development Mary Foley at foleym@bartonccc.edu or 620-792.9278.

Relay for Life Team to Host Spring Divas Day Out

Great Bend Tribune Relay for Life team will host the Spring Divas Day Out vendor show Sunday, April 17 at the Best Western Courtyard.

Doors are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and admission is FREE. All types of vendors showing home décor, candy & nuts, beauty & bath, jewelry, kitchen items and much more will be present.

Shook 'N' Cook Catering will provide lunch options all day. Door prize drawings held all day! Contact Kandi Wolf at 620-797-5651 or Linn Hogg at 620-617-3640 for more information.



Outlook Business Journal

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American Family Insurance Agent Rhonda Knudson Earns Top Honor For Customer Service

Rhonda Knudson, an American Family Insurance agent in Great Bend, Kansas, has been recognized for providing an outstanding customer experience under the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification Program.



"Customers are our number one focus, and agencies who earn the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification have been given the highest marks from customers for excellent service," said Bill Westrate, chief operating officer of American Family Insurance. "These agents and agencies provide the exceptional service and attention customers expect and deserve, time and time again."

The service excellence distinction was determined through an evaluation process conducted under guidelines established through the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification Program. The process consists of a customer satisfaction survey, which measures customers' overall experience with their current American Family agent.

Knudson has been an agent for American Family since for 30 years. The agency office is located at one block west of the Post Office in great Bend at 2201 16th St.

Great Bend Regional Hospital Earns Recertification for Level IV Trauma Center

The Kansas Trauma Program recently named Great Bend Regional Hospital a Level IV Trauma Center, a designation earned through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Kansas Trauma System. The statewide program serves as a systematic approach to providing care to the injured patient. It's a network of relationships between EMS providers, emergency departments, and tertiary referral facilities, designed to direct the trauma patient to the resources most appropriate for the care needed based on the nature of the injury.



Great Bend Regional Hospital first pursued the designation in 2013 to better serve the area's healthcare needs, but every facility must resubmit their paperwork and undergo inspection every three years. "Being a Level IV Trauma Center means that we can provide emergency medical care for injured patients and the timely transfer of the more seriously injured to a Level I, II, or III Trauma Center as needed," says Emily Yarmer, ER/ICU Supervisor and Trauma Program Coordinator at Great Bend Regional Hospital. "Earning this designation takes a lot of coordination and training for our employees, but it is worth the effort to be able to adequately serve the emergent medical needs of our patients."

"The goal of the trauma system is to ensure each patient is properly triaged and matched to the hospital with the most appropriate resources as quickly as possible," says Carman Allen, TraumaProgram Director for KDHE. "Because patients with severe injuries require rapid, specialized treatment to ensure the best chance for recovery, a trauma system would increase their chances for survival and reduce their chance of permanent disability."

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APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Friday, April 1st

Open Mic Night, A440 Musical Instruments, 1207 Main St, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
BCC Juried Student Exhibit Reception, Barton Community College & Shafer Art Gallery, 245 NE 30 Rd, 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 2nd

Murder at the Juice Joint, Stone Ridge Country Club, 1438 24th St, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 7th

No Chamber Coffee due to the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo

Friday, April 8th

Northview Nursery & Landscape Annual Open House, 172 N Hwy 281, 8:00 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9th

Northview Nursery & Landscape Annual Open House, 172 N Hwy 281, 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Northview Nursery & Landscape Customer Appreciation BBQ, 172 N Hwy 281, 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 10th

Northview Nursery & Landscape Annual Open House, 172 N Hwy 281, 11:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 15th

SRCA Test and Tune, 9951 B-29 Way, 6:00-11:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 16th

Clara Barton Hospital Lab Fair, Clara Barton Hospital Turnbull Safe Room, 250 W 9th St. Hoisington, 7:00-9:00 a.m.
SCRA NHRA Summit Points Race #1, 9951 B-29 Way, 2:00 p.m.
Born Learning Trail, Brit Spaugh Zoo, 2123 Main St, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 17th

Divas Day Out Vendor Show, Best Western Angus Inn, 2929 10th St, 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20th

Books are Fun Fair, Clara Barton Hospital Turnbull Safe Room, 250 W 9th St. Hoisington, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 21st

Job Fest, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 23rd

2016 Wild Goose Chase, Kansas Wetlands Education Center, 592 NE K-156 Hwy, 7:30-11:00 a.m.
St. Rose Heath Center Blood Screening, 1315 Broadway Ave, 6:30-9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 26th

HR Roundtable Luncheon: Office Ergonomics, The Page Banquet Room, 2920 10th St, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Friday, April 29th

15th Annual Catholic Charities Wine Tasting Event, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Barton Booster Club Golf Tournament, Stone Ridge Country Club, 1438 24th St, 1:00-7:00 p.m.
SRCA Test and Tune & Gamblers Race, 9951 B-29 Way, 6:00-11:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30th

SRCA NHRA Summit Points Race #2, 9951 B-29 Way, 2:00 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

Barton County Commission Meetings, Mondays, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main Room 106, 9:00 a.m.

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Bingo, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1011 Kansas Ave., 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Served at American Legion, Fridays, 1011 Kansas Ave., 6:00 p.m.

BCC Juried Student Exhibit, Barton Community College & Shafer Art Gallery, NE 30 Rd, Monday- Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**This exhibit runs April 1- 23*

Baby and Me, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams, Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Story Time, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams, Tuesdays 11:00 a.m.

Human Resource Roundtable April 26

“Office Ergonomics”

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to invite you to participate in our quarterly Human Resources Roundtable Luncheons that give employers and leaders in the business community an opportunity to keep up with trends and developments in the Human Resources industry. These informative networking luncheons take place four times each year, on the last Tuesday of January, April, July, and October beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The next HR Roundtable Luncheon will take place Tuesday, April 26th in the meeting room at The Page. Strain, discomfort and injuries are still a risk present in the office environment, so even if you think you've heard it all before, this presentation will give you everything you need to know about how to minimize or eliminate the ergonomic risks associated with using a computer workstation. This information also applies to employees who share a workstation, so everyone will be able to know how to make adjustments to equipment, (as well as what behaviors to avoid,) to reduce discomfort, maximize productivity and reduce the risk of injury or strain.

The meeting will be a buffet-style lunch that will include entree, vegetable, salad and multigrain bread. The cost for the seminar is \$20.00 per person. When you register using the convenient online form, you will have the option to pay with a credit card or to bill your company for the \$20 luncheon. Even if you've never participated in these informative luncheons, new faces are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Participants must register by Friday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m.



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Irv Gotsche Continues Serving St. Rose Health Center After 25 Years

When Irv Gotsche ran into a friend at what is now St. Rose Health Center, little did he know it was the beginning of a long-standing relationship with the facility. That chance meeting led Gotsche to volunteering to help St. Rose patients, families and visitors for 25 years and counting.



"My friend was a volunteer who escorted patients to their destinations," Gotsche recalled. "I showed an interest and she recommended I talk to the head of the volunteers, who then gave me a tour. "I have been here every Thursday since then" the Great Bend man added.

"The most important part of this is meeting people and helping people." Gotsche said he tries to make a point of greeting everyone who comes through the door. "Just a smile can mean a lot to someone," he explained.

The veteran volunteer recommends that people consider St. Rose if they are looking for a way to give back to the community. "It's especially important after you retire," he noted. "If you don't keep your mind active, you will go backwards. That is what happens. Many people retire at 65 and if they are not active, they sometimes face health problems." Currently, St. Rose has 26 volunteers, many of whom recently attended an appreciation luncheon. Ideally, the roster would have 40 names.

Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact St. Rose Administrative Services Manager Carol Gotsche by calling 620-786-6163.



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Farmers Mutual Insurance Announces Promotions

Farmers Mutual Insurance, headquartered in Ellinwood, announces the promotion of Angie Gunn to assistant manager. FMI is a company that exists solely to serve the insurance needs of policyholders and not to provide investment profits to shareholders. "I am pleased to add Angie to the management team," said Justin Lear, PFMM and CEO of FMI.



"I look forward to this new chapter as assistant manager/system administrator. I will be learning another aspect of the insurance business," Gunn said. "What I like about my job are the interesting issues I see daily, the flexibility, and the people I work with."

In addition, Kim Heinz was promoted to junior underwriter and Mona Warren promoted to workflow assistant. "FMI believes its staff is an asset to the policyholders. We recognize our staff as being well skilled, capable, and personable in our service to the policyholders." Lear said.

FMI serves a niche market of underserved properties throughout Kansas that may have some issues and may be uninsurable elsewhere. Call 620-564-3281 or email fmi@fmi-ks.com for more information.

Robinson Serves Great Bend Community For 38 Years; Will Retire This Summer

After 38 years at the Great Bend Police Department, Bob Robinson can tell story after story after story. However, there are certain occasions that always reinforce his decision to become a police officer. "I am always happy when we can quickly locate a missing child who hasn't been harmed," Capt. Robinson said. "One time a mother couldn't find her young son. Come to find out, he had been in a little trouble with mom that day; he hid behind the couch and fell asleep. "It is also a nice feeling when you help find an older person who wandered away from home," he added. "These are just a couple of circumstances that make me glad I'm a police officer. There is nothing like seeing the relief on a family member's face."



Robinson's law-enforcement stories will wrap up this summer when he retires after serving as a patrolman, sergeant and now captain. He was also a patrolman and sergeant at the Iola Police Department.

Like most other professions, law enforcement has seen a dramatic increase in technology with no end in sight. "Technology has just exploded," Robinson commented. "Smart phones are even playing a big role. For example, during severe weather we can look at the radar and see the storm moving." The GBPD has had cameras in cars for several years, dash cams for about 10 years, and body armor and body cameras for a few years. "We had all this before the national controversies in recent years," Robinson said. "We have a good city council that understands our needs."

Since Robinson concentrates on administrative duties, he is well aware that it is difficult to even get applicants for the jobs today. "We can compete with salaries and benefits but there are a lot of negative things going on in the country about the criminal justice system," he noted. "But we are different than metro areas. It goes back to being part of the community. "The people we come in contact with could be our neighbors or someone I coached in baseball. They could be victims or suspects. The difference is that we care."

It is easy to see that Robinson will miss the job and his co-workers who are "dedicated to the profession. But there comes a time when the old guys need to step aside. I have enjoyed my career. I got banged up a time or two but I have had strong support from my family. "There are times you need to leave work at work, and they understand," he explained. "I couldn't have done it without them."

Young Barton County Sheriff's Deputy Passionate About Law Enforcement

Alex Lomas will always remember the time he participated in serving a search warrant at a friend's home. It was an uncomfortable situation, to say the least. However, the Barton County Sheriff's Office deputy is gratified by the positive outcome of that Hoisington incident. It reminds him of why he became a law-enforcement officer in the first place. "About a year after the search warrant was executed, my friend thanked me for it," Lomas recalled. "He said it changed his life." "That's the kind of thing you look for," Lomas added. "This job is about a lot more than arresting people and writing tickets. Just because someone breaks the law, it does not mean they are a bad person. We are all human and have bad days."



Lomas, a 26-year-old Hoisington resident, earned an associate's degree in criminal justice at Barton Community College and a bachelor's in the same field at Fort Hays State University. He furthered his education at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center near Hutchinson. Lomas indicated he continues to learn from veteran officers and "could pick their brains for a week. In many cases, veterans did not have all the tools we have today such as computers and cameras."

Whether it is through social media or traditional news outlets, Lomas is aware of negative attitudes about law enforcement across the country. "But central Kansas is different," he commented. "We get a lot of respect from the public. It does bring a smile to your face when they smile and wave. Ninety-eight percent of the people are supportive." And Lomas believes there is a reason for that. "If we treat people with respect, we will get it back," he explained. "If we don't show respect, someone could easily resent it and somebody could get hurt. Communication is the best tool we have."

Despite the inherent dangers associated with law enforcement, Lomas' family is supportive. "They know I really enjoy it; it is all worth it when you can make a difference. "Cops are not bad. We don't do it for the money. It is a passion, a calling." Lomas' plan for the future is to make law enforcement a life-long career.



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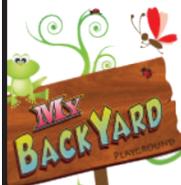
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Barton County Young Professionals Make a Big Impact at 4th Annual Charity Supply Drive

The Barton County Young Professionals group recently partnered with the Great Bend Rotary Club to host their 4th Annual Charity Supply Drive on Saturday, March 5th. Beautiful weather, eager volunteers, and a generous response from shoppers at the two Dillon's stores in Great Bend resulted in phenomenal support for the area food banks.

"Our volunteers worked at both Dillon's stores from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. collecting donations of non-perishable food and household supplies for the Barton County Food Bank, as well as the food pantries in Ellinwood and Hoisington," said Traci Burns, volunteer leader for the BCYP group's Community Impact team. "We filled two passenger vans provided by Barton Community College, and collected an additional \$637 in cash donations."



Thanks to a sponsorship from the Great Bend Rotary Club, the Young Professionals volunteers were able to purchase a live remote radio broadcast with Eagle Radio and donate an additional lump sum, bringing the total cash raised to \$1,000. "I am just so overwhelmed. We feel so blessed," said Evelyn Essmiller, volunteer for the Barton County Food Bank, where the pantry was so full that food lined the hallways for several days after the supply drive.

"Our group has been putting a much greater emphasis on volunteering and leadership development the last two years," says Regan Reif, 2016 Chairperson. "In December, we made gift bags for kids in foster care through CASA, in January we assembled over 400 literacy kits for preschool students in cooperation with United Way of Central Kansas, and we'll continue our efforts by working to refresh the Born Learning Trail at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo in mid to late April."

The Barton County Young Professionals group has three main goals: Lead. Network. Volunteer. The group is free to join, and is open to anyone between the ages of 21 and 40 that lives or works in the Barton County area. For more information, visit www.bartonnyp.com and like the group's page on Facebook. BCYP is a program of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

Kansas Wetlands Education Center Celebrates Spring Migration

The Kansas Wetlands Education Center is celebrating spring migration with The Great Migration Rally starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 30. "It's an event to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day," said Curtis Wolf, KWEC manager. "The concept is to provide information about the hazards birds face during migration with a fun and entertaining approach."

Participants start at the KWEC and draw a "bird" card, worth varying points. The rarer the species, the more points it is worth. "Each bird is a species that migrates through Cheyenne Bottoms," Wolf said. Before beginning their "migration", participants will meander through fun activities and demonstrations at the KWEC, including a bird banding station, flying drone demonstration, a raptor booth with a "touchables" table, landscaping for birds with a view of the KWEC wildflower/pollinator garden, bird tattoos, and kids crafts and activities.



Leaving the KWEC, participants will "migrate" through Cheyenne Bottoms on a driving tour with two stops along the way. They will then make their way to a third stop where they can tour the historic St. Peter and Paul Church, located east of Cheyenne Bottoms. At each of the stops, participants will pick up situational cards that describe a hazard or advantage encountered by their bird species. Positive cards, such as finding a good food source, add points. Negative cards, such as losing a wetland to development, subtract points. At the migration destination, Barton Community College's Camp Aldrich, the "migrants" choose one last card, points are tabulated and those with the highest points win prizes. A lunch will be served and the event culminates with a presentation by falconer, Nate Mathews, with his golden eagle, Isaiah.

Many outdoor-themed prizes will be awarded to participants, with the top prize being a WASP cam Action-Sport Camera. "We were very fortunate to have so many businesses, organizations and individuals donate prizes for this event," Wolf said. "We also appreciate BCC's partnership, as well as sponsorships from the City of Great Bend, Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau, Friends of Cheyenne Bottoms, and Great Bend Regional Hospital."

Cost for the event is \$5.50 for adults (Age 13 and up), \$3 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under age 5. Participants are asked to pre-register online at www.wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu or by calling the KWEC, 1-877-243-9268, by April 22.

Barton Community College to Host "Career Closet Drive"

Barton Community College's Community Service Organization will put on a "Career Closet Drive" as part of the ninth annual Great Bend Job Fest to help attendees of the event appear as professional as possible while they network. The drive will be from March 29 through April 15. The clothes will be available for the attendees at the Job Fest, which is on April 21. Anyone who utilizes the clothes will be able to keep them for future use.



The group is looking for gently used professional attire for males and females including suits, dresses, shirts, shoes, belts, ties, scarves and other accessories, along with hangers. Donations can be dropped off at the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center at 1025 Main St. in Great Bend. It is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Job Fest is a regional job fair that has been held in Great Bend for nine years. This year the event will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21 at the Events Center, 3111 10th St. The fair is for businesses and employees in Central Kansas and is collaboratively presented by representatives from many organizations within the region.

Job Fest is sponsored by Barton Community College, the City of Great Bend, KansasWorks, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development, Great Bend Tribune, CUNA Mutual, Pawnee County and K-State Global campus.

For more information, contact Business Program Coordinator Kathy Boeger at boegerk@bartonccc.edu or (620) 792-9203.

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Great Bend Regional Hospital to Host Fiesta-Themed Ladies Night May 5th

Great Bend Regional Hospital is excited to host their first ever Ladies Night on Thursday, May 5th otherwise known as Cinco de Mayo. Women are invited to attend the fiesta themed event from 6-8 p.m. in the hospital's Imaging lobby on the west side of the facility. In addition to free food and margaritas, there will also be other fun activities for those who attend such as bone density scans, vitals screenings, wax hands treatments, and chair massages – all of which are free to try.



Every woman will receive a gift bag with goodies to take home, and will receive a chance in the door prize drawing. The physician-owned hospital will also be offering a scavenger hunt game where women can learn about the latest and greatest healthcare services available to women in the area. Anyone who completes their scavenger hunt card will be entered to win a "Queen for a Day" package at Rock Haven Spa, valued at \$400. For the door prizes and the spa giveaway, winners will be drawn at random after the event and guests do not have to be present to win.

No advanced reservation is necessary, and admission is free. Learn more by joining the Facebook event on the Great Bend Regional Hospital Facebook page. Learn more about Great Bend Regional Hospital at www.gbregional.com.

Ambassador Profile Mike Fortkamp

The 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. To find out more, contact us, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.



Where I Work

I am the Operations/Sales Manager for Dayton Security, Inc. I handle client relations and communications, design security systems for new and existing clients, event marketing, and various duties as needed.

Educational Background

After graduating from McCook Senior High, I earned my Associate of Science degree from McCook Community College and then received my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska.

My Family

I have been married to my beautiful wife Jeanette for over 15 years and we have 3 sons, Matthew & Morgan who are 14 and Marcus who is 13. We also have two dogs, which just happen to be male as well! As an Ambassador. I have been an Ambassador for one year after moving to Great Bend in 2013. I really enjoy getting to meet the great people from Great Bend and the business leaders of our community.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

I enjoy attending my boys' activities and attending sporting events. I also serve as the youth pastor at our church and coach tennis in Ellinwood.

GREAT BEND FARM & RANCH EXPO
IT'S OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY!

GREAT BEND CO-OP KSN American HAT COMPANY, INC.

April 6-8, 2016
www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net

April 6th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 7th 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
April 8th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reserve your exhibitor space today!

Wine & Art Walk

The 2nd Annual City of Great Bend Art & Wine Walk will take place downtown on Friday, May 6. The City is collaborating with participating businesses and local & regional artists to host this event. We invite you to stroll through downtown Great Bend, view artwork, and enjoy samples of wine and other refreshments. Specific locations will have artwork that is part of a silent auction proceeds will go to benefit a community project that will be decided by the City Retail Strategic Team Group.



The Great Bend Art & Wine Walk begins at 4:00 p.m. at any of the participating locations. This is a free event but anyone wishing to sample wine or other adult beverages must be of legal drinking age. Maps will be available at any of the participating locations downtown, The Great Bend Events Center & CVB Office, Local Hotels and City of Great Bend Offices.

For more information about the Great Bend Art & Wine walk, contact the City Community Coordinator, Christina Hayes at 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net.

Yours Truly Moving & Expanding

At Yours Truly, we are excited to announce that we will be re-locating our gift store and event rental and design business to 2017 Lakin beginning May 1, 2016.

Along with many new lines of gifts and home décor, we will continue to offer event design, event décor rentals and event coaching services.

Beginning May 1, we will expand to include a full service flower shop. Kim Roach, formerly the florist at Great Bend Floral, will be joining our team. She will bring with her excellent floral expertise with a fresh, new look!

While floral service will begin in May, orders are being accepted now for Mother's Day & Memorial Day along with everyday occasions, weddings and more. Until then, we are still at 1419 Main Street to help with your gift giving and event needs.

Call us anytime at 620-796-2356 or email info@yourstrulyks.com. Like us on Facebook to keep up with new arrivals and track, our exciting changes!



Keller Real Estate & Insurance Inc. Named A Farmers Alliance Advantage Agent

The Farmers Alliance Companies in McPherson, Kansas, have announced that Keller Real Estate & Insurance Inc. in Great Bend has been named a Farmers Alliance advantage agent for 2016.



To qualify as an advantage agent, an agency must exhibit superior professionalism and profitability over five consecutive years. Farmers Alliance recognizes advantage agents as the "best of the best". To reach this level of distinction is a reflection of this agency's commitment to their customers and their community. Congratulations to Keller Real Estate & Insurance Inc. for this achievement.

Chamber Radio Show



Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Eagle Radio's Patrick Burnett discuss the latest Chamber happenings with Marketing Coordinator Maddi Kinkelaar. This month's show will air on Thursday, April 7th at 11:35 a.m.



Quarterly Technology Roundtable Luncheon

Wednesday, May 11th
Spray-Holt Family Board Room,
Chamber Office, 1125 Williams
11:30 a.m. Lunch | 11:45 a.m. Discussion
| 1 p.m. Dismissal

"Employee Users & Security - Spyware / Ransomware Update"

\$15 Per Person - Includes Lunch, Beverage & Program
Catered By: Flavored Celebrations

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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday at 9:30 am

April 7, 2016

No Chamber Coffee – Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo

Celebrating its 5th Anniversary, the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo will take place April 6-8th at the Great Bend Expo Complex just two miles West of Great Bend. Featuring nearly 700 exhibitors with indoor and outdoor exhibits, and no admission fees – check it out!

April 14, 2016

Great Bend Public Library - 1409 Williams St.

Please join us at the Great Bend Public Library for Chamber Coffee. We have done some rearranging, updated our Kansas Room, magazines now checkout and done away with fines. We are also getting ready for our Summer Library Program. The Great Bend Public Library has thousands of fun items for you to checkout, so come in and let us help you!

April 21, 2016

Dayton Security - Chamber Board Room 1125 Williams

Do you have problems sleeping well at night? Do you worry about your house when you're out of town? Would you be interested in greater protection for your family? If you answered yes to any of these questions Dayton Security is here to help with your security and fire notification needs – join us for coffee to learn more!

April 28, 2016

Great Bend Regional Hospital - 514 Cleveland St.

Please enter through the east Emergency Room entrance.

Great Bend Regional Hospital is a state-of-the-art physician owned hospital offering emergency and urgent care services, surgical procedures, an award-winning Women and Children's Center, imaging and diagnostics, respiratory and physical therapy, and much more. Central Kansas Family Practice and Heartland Regional Health Clinic are also under the hospital's auspices.

May 5, 2016

Grace Community Church - 210 McKinley St.

Grace Community Church exists to lead people to an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ so they may abound in fruitfulness to God's glory and their most profound joy. (John 15:1-11) Join us at the Chamber Coffee or visit our website for more information – www.GraceGreatBend.org

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