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Outlook Business Journal

www.greatbend.org

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Register Now for Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament

The Tenth Annual Gary Gore Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 29th at The Club at StoneRidge. Members are encouraged to sponsor and participate in a fun-filled event. The tournament is a way to link business with pleasure, and provides an opportunity for participants to network with other business professionals in a casual and relaxed environment. Registration begins at 11 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 1 p.m.

The tournament memorializes Gary Gore, who died in a watercraft accident at Wilson Lake in 2005. Gore was serving as the Chamber's Executive Director at the time of his death, a position he held for five years. Proceeds from the tournament support the operations of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

Players can look forward to a four-man scramble format with thousands of dollars in prizes and raffle drawings. Players can earn additional prizes in the hole contests. A beverage cart will be available, sponsored by Benefit Management Inc.

"The Patio Party is a fun networking event for all Chamber Members, spouses, and guests to enjoy after our tournament is over," says Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Member Services. "The event includes great food, awards for the top golfers, and opportunities to win an impressive array of door prizes, regardless of whether or not you play golf that afternoon."

The Patio Party & Awards Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and is sponsored by CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions. Guests can attend the Patio Party and dinner for just \$15 per person. These tickets can be purchased online through the golf registration form, even if you don't plan to play golf.



Cost to enter the tournament is \$100 per player, or \$400 per team, which includes green fees, raffle tickets, and admission to the Patio Party & Dinner.

Prizes are awarded to the top three teams, and everyone is eligible to win over \$2,500 in prizes and raffle drawings! Mulligans are available for \$5, paid the day of the tournament.

Hole sponsorships are still available for \$100 per company, and include recognition on the Chamber website, signage on a hole at the tournament, recognition in the Outlook Business Journal following the event, and recognition in one of our weekly email Update newsletters.

Look for the insert/registration flyer in this month's newsletter packet, or register for the tournament on the Chamber website at www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx. For more information, contact Andrea Bauer at 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.

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**Technology Roundtable May 13th
"Virtualization & Tablets"**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to invite you to participate in our quarterly Technology Roundtable Luncheons that give tech-savvy professionals or curious lifelong learners an opportunity to keep up with trends and developments in business technology.



The next Technology Roundtable Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, May 13th in the Spray-Holt Family Board Room at the Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, starting at 11:30 a.m. The topic for this guided discussion will be Virtualization & Tablets.

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

Chamber Marketing Seminar & Member Orientation May 20th

All local businesses are invited to attend an informational seminar on Wednesday, May 20th designed to inform current and prospective members about the numerous marketing services available through the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The session will begin at 10 a.m. in the Chamber Board Room, and will include coffee and rolls at no charge to participants. During the presentation, members will learn about all the ways they can utilize Chamber services to the benefit of their companies. This is also a great way to share ideas and network with other businesses.



The session will conclude in less than an hour, so you can get in and out with new ideas get started on! Hand-outs will be provided to all who attend. To RSVP for the free informational seminar, register online at www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx. Questions may also be directed to Sales Director Andrea Bauer, abauer@greatbend.org.

**DISCOVER CHINA
in October 2015**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development invites YOU to come with us to Discover China during a nine-day, all-inclusive tour of Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. The trip is scheduled October 10-18th in partnership with the Dodge City Chamber of Commerce.

The 9-day, all-inclusive trip begins and ends in Los Angeles, California. Trip highlights include Tian An Men Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Great Wall of China, Ming Tombs, Temple of Heaven, Lingering Garden, Tiger Hall, Lingyin Temple, and West Lake.

Pricing per person includes round trip international airfare from Los Angeles, accommodations in 4 and 5 star hotels, three meals per day, all in-country transportation, deluxe bus tours, fluent English speaking tour guides, entrance fees for attractions. For more information or to get signed up, contact Chamber President/CEO Jan Peters at 620-792-2401 or visit TinyURL.com/ChamberTravel.



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Big Bend Batters Box Celebrates Grand Opening

Chris Umphres, Roger Ward, and Chris Smith all share a passion for baseball. All three men have backgrounds as players and coaches, but the three recently partnered to share that passion with the Great Bend community by founding and opening Big Bend Batters Box at 2207 Washington. This required a significant capital investment in the facility that formerly housed The Lamp Doctor and long before that, a dry cleaner in the 1940s.

"We waited a long time to find the right facility that was in close proximity to the schools. This is situated between the middle school and the high school so kids can practice pitching, hitting, and fielding after school," says Chris Umphres. "We had to tear out several walls, remove the fur vault in the back, reinforce the ceiling, upgrade the restrooms, install a new heating system, and add all our specialized equipment for practicing."

The newly renovated facility features a 35' batting cage, a 70' batting cage that can be split into two 35' cages if needed, along with a 55' batting cage. These cages can also be utilized for pitching practice. The unique setup also allows the nets to be pulled back so the room can be opened up for indoor team practices.

The owners have plans to invest in a radar sensing simulator, more pitching machines, and additional equipment as the need arises.

"We've gotten pretty creative to make this dream a reality, and we've had lots of support from other members of the community. Scott's Welding donated the metal window covers to protect the glass inside the building," says Chris Smith. "We purchased used turf from the University of Maryland and had it shipped in so our players can practice on the same turf they will play on after high school."

Chain link fence separates the practice area from the lobby so that guests can watch practices. A television in the lobby features the MLB network, and a feature wall displays photos and autographs from area alumni who have gone on to college, minor league, and major league baseball.

"We offer memberships so that athletes can practice several times per week with discounts based on the length of membership you sign up for," Roger Ward says. "We also offer private lessons for hitting, pitching, and defense along with workshops and party rentals available by appointment."

Members enjoy discounts on merchandise, hitting and pitching camps, and private lessons. During the school year, Big Bend Batters Box is open 3:30-9:30 p.m. on weekdays, and 1-8 p.m. Saturdays. Teams can schedule practices outside normal hours. For more information, like the Big Bend Batters Box Facebook page and follow them on Twitter.

"Our slogan is 'Work Hard, Dream Big' and we use the hashtag #WHDB on social media," Ward says. "We want to reinforce to these youth that it takes dedication and hard work to achieve your goals."



Events & Promotions from Our Chamber Members

Relay for Life Bunco Party May 19

Join the fun with a Beach Party Bunco tournament hosted by the Great Bend Tribune Relay For Life Team. Bring your BUNCO groups, bring your friends. No prior experience required. This fun event will include dinner, beverage, dessert, entry fee, munchies and door prize ticket for only \$30.00. Located at the Best Western Courtyard on Tuesday, May 19th from 6-9 p.m. For information, contact Kandi Wolf at 620-797-5651. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society as we work towards Finishing the Fight against cancer.

RSVP Sells Memorial Day Flowers

Memorial Day Flowers will be on sale through the months of April and May with proceeds going to volunteer recognition programs for RSVP and Volunteers In Action. These recycled flowers look brand new and are perfect for your budget. For more information, stop by RSVP's office, 1025 Main Room D114 or call 620-792-1614.

MyTown Launches New Website

The four MyTown stores in downtown Great Bend recently launched a vibrant new website, www.mytownstores.com. You can see detailed information about each store from the Heart of Kansas Mercantile, Miss Pretty Pickles, Perks Coffee Shop, and Renue Salon & Spa. Check it out today!

Barton Hosts Enrollment Days

Barton Community College is hosting Enrollment Days sessions to help students prepare for the upcoming school year. Space is limited so students need to call (620) 792-9286 to sign up, or they can sign up online at bartonccc.edu/admission. Students use this time to discuss class schedules, apply for financial aid, and more.

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Sunflower Diversified Gala Raises \$61,000

Children and adults with developmental delays and disabilities are the beneficiaries of the community's generosity and compassion once again, said Connie Oetken, director of development at Sunflower Diversified Services. Sunflower's 10th Annual Charity Gala raised \$61,000, which will help infants, toddlers and adults who participate in the many programs provided by the non-profit agency.

Sunflower Executive Director Jim Johnson noted that the total raised included \$8,000 designated for Sunflower's Invest in Kids Club. This group supports infants and toddlers at the agency's Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool. "I simply cannot tell you how grateful we are to everyone who had anything to do with the Gala," Johnson said. "The total is overwhelming, and we are gratified that some donors earmarked their contributions for Invest in Kids. Children's programs have been especially hard-hit by government cutbacks."

Sunflower's service area includes Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. All donations stay in this area.

Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo Hosts World Binturong Day Celebration

The Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo will be hosting a hog feed on Saturday, May 9th from 5-8 p.m. in honor of World Binturong Day. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the zoo for \$8 and the meal will include pulled pork, beans, and coleslaw. Other attractions include a meet and greet with Poppy the binturong, zoo tours, and live animal shows. All proceeds from the event will assist in building Poppy a new home at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo.

What is a binturong? Also known as a bearcat, a binturong has a face like a cat, a body like a bear, and a tail like a monkey. The hair coloration on binturongs can vary from black to brown with white, silver, or rust on the tips, which gives the binturong a grizzled appearance. Many say its fur smells like a batch of freshly popped popcorn. Come see for yourself Saturday, May 9th at the zoo. Call 620-793-4226 or visit the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo.

Chamber Office Closed Memorial Day

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day. We will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, May 26th. For more information, visit www.greatbend.org or contact a member of the Chamber Staff at 620-792-2401.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of April, volunteers from the Barton County Young Professionals worked to wrap up fundraising for The Tot Spot, a new playground that will be installed in Brit Spaugh Park for children under five years of age later this summer. The project is being jointly driven by the YP group and the Rotary Club. By mid April The Tot Spot committee announced that the project was fully funded with additional grants expected to come in by early May. The group is now working on adding additional early childhood equipment to the project with the extra funds.

In May, the group will be very busy juggling three different events over the course of a week. It'll start by supporting the Rotary Club's fundraiser for The Tot Spot on Friday, May 1st. Called "Bears & BBQ, Wine & Wildbeasts", the event will include dinner and wine samples, live music, and a visit from Miss Kansas at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo from 6-9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online through the Facebook event.

The following week, the group will gather for a Personal Development Luncheon on Tuesday, May 5th at 12 p.m. in the meeting room at Pizza Hut, 4101 10th Street in Great Bend. The topic will be "School Enrollment Options" featuring a panel of representatives from local K-12 education providers, both public and private.

On Friday, May 8th Sunflower Diversified Services will host a mixer from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for members of the growing networking group. The event will take place in their manufacturing plant located near the airport at 8823 4th Street. YP members are encouraged to come enjoy free food and beverages, along with numerous networking and volunteer opportunities.

Keep up with news and events for Barton County Young Professionals by signing up for the YP email newsletter.

Want to Join?

Anyone who works in Barton County between the ages of 21 and 40 is welcome to join the growing group at any time. For more details or to join, email bartonyp@gmail.com. And be sure to join the Facebook group!



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Expires May 31, 2015

Highlighted Events in May

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

- 1... Art & Wine Walk, Downtown Great Bend, 4 p.m.
- 1... "Bears & BBQ, Wine & Wildbeasts" Fundraiser for The Tot Spot Hosted by Great Bend Rotary Club, Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo, 6 p.m.
- 1-2... SRCA Summit Points Race #2, Expo Complex, Gates Open at 12 p.m. Daily
- 2... The Mandate Men's Conference, BCC Fine Arts Auditorium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 9 a.m.
- 4... BCYP Steering Committee Meeting, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 4 p.m.
- 4... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 4... Barton Planetarium Full-Dome Movie, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7 p.m.
- 5... YP Personal Development Luncheon "School Enrollment Options", Pizza Hut Meeting Room, 4101 10th, 12 p.m.
- 6... BCC Enrollment Days, Kirkman Activity Center, 245 NE 30 Rd, 1 p.m.
- 6... BCC Thespian Showcase, Fine Arts Auditorium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 4 p.m.
- 7... BCC Vortex Art Day, Shafer Gallery, 245 NE 30 Rd
- 7... Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Community Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 9:30 a.m.
- 7... Chamber Connect Radio Show Airs, KVGB 1590 AM, 11:35 a.m.
- 7... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 7... BCC Student Music Recital, Morrison Chapel, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7:30 p.m.
- 8... Young Professionals Networking Mixer, Sunflower Diversified Services Plant, 8823 4th Street, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 9... World Binturong Day, Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo, 2123 Main, 5-8 p.m.
- 13... Technology Roundtable "Virtualization & Tablets", 1125 Williams, 11:30 a.m.
- 14... Chamber Coffee: AT&T Wireless, 3407 10th St, 9:30 a.m.
- 14-17... Lucas Oil Thunder on the Plains, SRCA Drag Strip at Expo Complex, Gates Open 7 a.m. Daily
- 15... Chamber Newsletter Submission Deadline for April Issue, 5 p.m.
- 15... Barton Community College Commencement Ceremonies
- 18... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 19... Beach Party Bunco Tournament Benefiting Barton County Relay for Life, Best Western, 2920 10th, 6-9 p.m.
- 20... Chamber Marketing Seminar/New Member Orientation, 1125 Williams, 10 a.m.
- 21... Chamber Coffee: Seaport Airlines, 6047 6th St (GB Airport), 9:30 a.m.
- 22... Flyer Insert Deadline for Chamber Newsletter April Issue, 5 p.m.
- 25... Chamber Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 25... Barton Community College Campus Closed for Memorial Day
- 28... Chamber Coffee: Clara Barton Hospital Foundation, 250 W. 9th St, 9:30 a.m.
- 29-30... SRCA Summit Points Race #3, Expo Complex, Gates Open at 12 p.m. Daily
- 30... KWEC Photography Workshop, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Recurring Events

- 1-22... RSVP Memorial Day Flowers Sale, Weekdays, 1025 Main, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Barton County Commission Meetings, Mondays, Courthouse Room 106, 9 a.m.
- GBHHH Grief Support Group Meetings, Mondays, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo, Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
- Free Story Time at Everything Under the Sun, 407 McKinley, 10 a.m.
- Dinner Served at American Legion, 1011 Kansas Avenue, Wed. & Fri. at 6 p.m.

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

www.greatbend.org

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



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Back in the late 1990s, some older guys in Ellinwood noticed two of their young neighbors trying to make their own way in a new construction business. And lo and behold, those older folks came up with projects that may or may not have been necessary at the time.

The result of this community support is the thriving Joiner Construction Inc., 411 E. Santa Fe, Ellinwood. Justin Joiner, an Ellinwood native, is president of the company that has 29 employees.

When the business was just getting off the ground, “the older guys might have seen us covered in dirt and say something like ‘hey, my shed needs a new roof,’” Joiner recalled, noting his business partner was a hometown, childhood friend. “Maybe the shed really didn’t need a roof but they liked seeing us young, local boys out there working.

“They were saying ‘let’s give them something to do,’” he continued. “They appreciated us and we appreciated the opportunities they gave us. This is one very generous community.”

Joiner Construction services include: general construction for commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential markets; construction management; all types of building construction; new commercial; commercial repair and remodel; new residential; residential repair and remodel; residential roofing and repair; new ag; ag repair and remodel; new industrial; and industrial repair and remodel.

The repair and remodeling services also help with the rental side of the business, Joiner Properties.

But if Joiner is asked to name a specialty, a particular service is not what comes to mind first. “Our specialty is going out and performing at a top level every day,” he said. “But I guess you could say a specialty is putting a building up from the foundation to the structure itself.”

Throughout a conversation with Joiner, he credits his employees for their role in the company’s success. “I am really proud of how we work,” he said. “We get up before the tweety birds and take a lot of pride in it. The guys buy into the culture of what it takes to be successful.



From left to right: Estimator Logan Burns, Vice President Derek Joiner, Owner and President Justin Joiner, and Roofing Manager Luis Morales review plans for an upcoming project. Shay Kasselmann, Office Manager, is not pictured.

“I learned years ago that all of us have to understand this culture and the long-term goals,” Joiner elaborated. “Managers have to learn how to teach and be leaders – show by example.”

And everyone has to be willing to step out of a comfort zone. For example, even if someone is a great carpenter, he cannot expect to work exclusively in that area. At Joiner Construction, this carpenter would also learn about framing, siding, doors and roof work – the whole gamut of the profession.

No matter what a job’s specs call for, safety is paramount. “We provide all resources necessary to promote safety,” Joiner commented. “It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment – not just for our employees but also for clients and anyone else affected.”

Joiner’s safety procedures, quality materials and other factors can result in a bidding process that sometimes doesn’t compare apples to apples. “We strive to offer a competitive bid,” he said. “If another company offers a cheaper bid, the client should ask ‘why.’

“There could be many reasons – no workman’s compensation insurance, poor-quality materials, no safety equipment,” Joiner explained. “We don’t compromise.”

The company opened in 1998, two years after Joiner graduated from Ellinwood High School; he worked out of his home before opening an office in Sunflower Bank. The business has been in its current location four years; it also has a building on the east side of town.

It runs three to six crews “but that is ever-changing,” Joiner said. “We have to consider the status of projects, and weather is a huge factor. We might have to jump off one job and facilitate another.

“It could be equipment repair or maintenance,” he explained. “Sometimes we have to get real creative. But we always stay productive so the guys can get their hours in each week. We do what we need to do.”

Joiner learned the trade from Brian Schartz of Schartz Building Construction and Mike Strobl of Strobl-Yarmer Construction, both of Ellinwood. He also had the support of his parents, Don and Rosie Joiner.

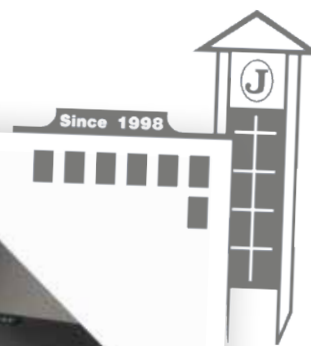
Joiner’s brother, Derek, signed on as vice president five years ago and brought another dimension to the company by encouraging more community involvement. This has led to sponsorships of sports and other youth programs, and a vocational trade scholarship.

Justin is thankful for his brother’s input and candid about his own career choice. “I didn’t like school very much,” Justin said. “But I did like building and woodworking. I

remember being looked down upon because I wasn’t interested in a four-year college. I took a lot of woodworking classes in high school. I hope attitudes are changing. If you like woodworking, welding or other trade, you should be encouraged.” —



BEFORE & AFTER



Sunflower Bank Donates \$1M to KWU

Kansas Wesleyan University has received a \$1M gift from Sunflower Bank for a comprehensive campus-wide technology infrastructure upgrade. The gift will cover the majority of a \$1.2M contract with Nex-Tech that will include installation and maintenance of a one-gigabit fiber network, linking residence halls, administrative and academic buildings with an advanced, secure, managed IP infrastructure. The robust high-speed network will accommodate advanced data and voice services campus wide, including a state-of-the-art wireless network accessible to students, faculty and staff.



"We are thrilled to sponsor this technology upgrade for KWU," said Ms. Carter, "This partnership perfectly fits our company mission of Bringing out the best in the lives we touch... Creating Possibility. Strengthening our communities through educational access is a possibility that is nearing reality, and together with Kansas Wesleyan we look forward to seeing the difference this will make for students in the communities we serve across Kansas and Colorado."

Sunflower Bank and its parent Sunflower Financial, Inc., a \$1.7-billion community bank based in Salina, KS, supports 34 branch locations throughout Kansas, Colorado and Missouri. For more information, please visit www.SunflowerBank.com.

USD 428 Education Foundation Awards Grants

Teachers were gifted with nearly \$30,000 by the USD 428 Education Foundation when the non-profit group recently awarded 28 mini grants that weren't so small. The amount distributed was higher than any previous year. Successful fund raisers, gifts from benefactors, and investments resulted in more money being available than in the past, according to Matt Hiss, president.

Education Foundation trustees also agreed to not cap the limit for each minigrant this year. As a result, two applicants received significantly more than \$1,500. One grant submitted by Tricia Reiser at Eisenhower Elementary called "One District, One Book" was awarded \$9,210.60 to create a shared reading experience across the entire district. Grant money will make it possible for every K-6 student to own "The World According to Humphrey" to be read by the family.

A second grant submitted by Dan Heath at Great Bend High School will make it possible to purchase two professional cameras and professional sound recording options so that video production students can learn hands-on and complete projects for the community in a positive way. Other grants in smaller amounts are helping teachers purchase supplies and materials to enhance the learning experience for USD 428 students. For more details, call the USD 428 office, 620-793-1500.

Thrivent Asset Management Earns Sixth Lipper Fund Award

Thrivent Asset Management has been honored with a prestigious Lipper Fund Award for Best Mixed-Assets Small Fund Family. The award recognizes the performance of six mutual funds managed by Thrivent Asset Management. All four of the Thrivent Asset Allocation funds, as well as the Thrivent Balanced Income Plus Fund and Thrivent Diversified Income Plus Fund, are part of the category for which Thrivent received the award, announced in late March. The award recognizes Thrivent for its consistently strong three-year risk-adjusted performance (as of November 30, 2014) relative to its peers and based on Lipper's performance-based methodology, in the Mixed-Asset Lipper category.



"We're honored to be recognized by Lipper for our performance," said Russell Swansen, chief investment officer at Thrivent. "Our Asset Allocation and Income Plus funds provide a simple and sophisticated choice for two very typical investment needs--asset growth and income generation."

Since they were launched nearly ten years ago, the asset allocation funds have become some of Thrivent Asset Management's most successful offerings and have helped shareholders meet their retirement and other financial goals. This is Thrivent Asset Management's sixth Lipper award since 2008. For more information, you can visit Thrivent.com/Lipper.

Thrivent Financial is represented in the local area by Melinda Kurth. She has offices at 1311 Williams Street in Great Bend and can also be reached at (620) 792-2465.

Waters True Value Donates \$1,000 to Local Relay for Life Chapter

Derek Fredrick Store manager of Waters True Value, presents a \$1000 donation to Mary Ann Shook, representative of the Barton County Relay-For-Life as Jenny Boyer Waters True Value Relay team captain and Kandi Wolf representative of the Barton County Relay-For-Life look on. The donation was part of the Spring Sweep Shopping Spree that each of Waters' seven Kansas based True Value stores participated.





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Owners: Roy & Dale Westhoff
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Great Bend Coffee Celebrates New Ownership with Ribbon Cutting

In 2009, Paul & Barb Wagner moved from Washington state to open a west coast inspired coffee shop known as the Great Bend Coffee Company. In 2014, personal circumstances required them to move back to take care of family. That was when LaResa Likes' dream of owning her own restaurant started to become reality.

LaResa and her husband, John, worked with the Small Business Development Center to create a business plan and secure the necessary financing to purchase the locally favored restaurant and coffee shop. "I've been in food service most of my life, and I'd been wanting to purchase a restaurant. When I was approached to buy it, we came in and loved it," LaResa said at her ribbon cutting last month. "All of the staff stayed on, and are doing a great job during our transition."

LaResa and John made some quick improvements, including fresh paint and a new chalkboard menu on the wall as you walk in. This helps customers scan the menu to save time in line. They also invested in a digital point of sale system that communicates with a ticket printer in the kitchen.

In addition to the Likes couple, Great Bend Coffee employs nine other people to staff their daily breakfast and lunch hours along with the Friday and Saturday evening dinner hours. And last month, they also started staying open late on Wednesdays until 8 p.m.

Normal hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, with Wednesdays being the exception. Fridays and Saturdays they open up for a special Italian dinner with steaks and unique Italian recipes from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Great Bend Coffee offers dine-in, carry-out, and catering services for meetings and events. For more information or to place an order, call 620-603-6465. Customers are also encouraged to like the Facebook page, where daily specials and news items are posted.

"We plan to keep a lot of things the same, while improving some of the processes and efficiencies that will make the customer's experience even better."



Great Bend... Naturally!

CVB & Chamber Partner to Present
Hospitality Training Contest



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

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

Loren Unruh, owner of the Best Western in Great Bend, is a firm supporter of this new program, and he is among the first to get 100% participation amongst his frontline hospitality staff. For this, he is being recognized with the first ever "Great Bend... At Your Service" Award from the Chamber and CVB.

Other businesses are invited to follow suit. Each employee who completes the state and regional training portions will earn a printable certificate that the employer is asked to track until all they have 100% employee participation. Each month between now and the end of the year, the Chamber and CVB will give up to two awards per month to businesses who can achieve 100% participation. Award recipients will receive a photo and write-up in the *Outlook Business Journal*.

As an added incentive, all individuals that complete both the basic and regional portions of the At Your Service training will be entered to win one of three \$100 cash prizes that will be given away later this year. The contest runs until November 1st so employers are encouraged to facilitate the training opportunity prior to that date for maximum participation. And if you get 100% completion amongst your staff, contact the CVB to let us know you are eligible for an award!

To take the free training or for more information:
KansasAtYourService.com.
Look for the insert!



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Ambassador Profile - Steve Swigart

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. They also volunteer at numerous Chamber events, such as the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo and the Annual Banquet. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact us, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.



Where I Work

I am the Mortgage Originator for Central National Bank, where I have worked since December 2014. I am responsible for all real estate lending in Great Bend and the surrounding area. I have been in the banking industry for a total of eight years.

Background

After graduating from Great Bend High School, I earned an Associate of Science from Barton Community College and a Bachelor of Science from Evangel University in Springfield Missouri. I majored in Psychology, minored in Biology with infuses in Neuropsychology. No, I'm not analyzing you....really.

My Family

My father and two sisters live in Great Bend and I have one brother living in Overland Park KS. I have one wonderful daughter Elizabeth currently living in Manhattan, attending KSU and majoring in Social Work.

As an Ambassador

I have been an Ambassador for one year and I have truly enjoyed my involvement with the Ambassador group. I have volunteered to help with the Great Bend Farm and Ranch Expo for the past two years and have found it to be one of the most rewarding aspects of being an Ambassador.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

I have been researching my family's genealogy for the past twenty years which lead to an interest in Native American history, and material culture. I play guitar but, still very much a novice. I challenge myself to learn something new every day... "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."

Memorial Art Company Expands With New Great Bend Location

Memorial Art Company has been in business since 1927, operated by the Main family. Tim Main handles the engraving, while his younger brothers Mike and Bill handle the finances and the placement of the monuments. Tim's wife, Linda, also works in the Salina office.

"We've been in Great Bend for years creating quality monuments for customers here, but without a storefront location. Most of them were driving to Hutchinson," Tim explained during their ribbon cutting in late March. "We wanted to create a more permanent presence here in Great Bend to better serve our clients in Central Kansas. A lot of people want to work with the same company that made their relatives' memorials because they see how the quality holds up."

The family-owned company's newest location is at 5611 10th Street next to Home Lumber in Great Bend. Shawna Zimmerman serves as the local office manager, helping customers pick out the right piece of art to remember their loved ones.

"We truly create a unique work of art. Greg, our in-house artist, creates beautiful imagery and engravings by hand, whereas a lot of our competitors do computer etched images. You can tell the difference a few years down the road," Main says. "Our memorials will last for centuries, and we only use the best quality granites."

In addition to traditional monuments, Memorial Art can also create name rocks and address markers, benches, pet memorials, and much more. With locations in Salina, Hutchinson, Abilene and Ardmore, Oklahoma, they are growing and ready to serve Great Bend residents.

For more information or to design a loved one's memorial, stop by their showroom at 5611 10th Street or contact Zimmerman at 785-823-2981 or email mac.greatbendks@gmail.com. You can also see a gallery of photos on their website, www.memorialartks.com.



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Clara Barton Holds 22nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament, Dinner & Auction June 19th

Clara Barton Hospital Foundation will be remembering the past and looking to the future with its 22nd Annual Benefit, Friday, June 19, 2015. The Benefit includes a golf tournament, dinner, and silent and live auctions. Since this marks the 25th anniversary of the Foundation's establishment, the Annual Benefit will be bigger than ever!

The golf tournament will feature a four-man scramble at Lake Barton Golf Course, with tee times beginning at 8 a.m. through 12:50 p.m. Cost to enter the tournament is \$90 per player, or \$360 per team. Registration includes green fees, golf cart rental, lunch on the course, a player gift, and a ticket to the dinner and auction later that evening. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in two flights. Advance registration is encouraged by Monday, June 15. Please see the flyer insert or go to our website to register!

This year, the Hole-In-One Contest will be a little different for returning golfers – instead of one chance to win a new car, golfers will have FIVE chances to win \$1,000 thanks to Manweiler Chevrolet. Other contests include a chipping contest, longest drive, longest putt, closest to the hole, and straightest shot for both men's and women's divisions, sponsored by First Kansas Bank and Cardinal Pharmacy. Prizes for each flight will be awarded, as well as last place prizes (new this year!).

The benefit dinner, sponsored by Landmark National Bank, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless, will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hoisington with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets for this year's Silver Anniversary "Then & Now" dinner are \$20.00 per person.

Anyone interested in volunteering, registering or supporting the event should contact the Foundation at 620-653-5012 or mmoshi-er@clarabarton.hpmin.com. For more information and a complete listing of sponsors see the flyer insert or go to www.clarabarton-hospital.com/foundation.

Great Bend Regional Hospital Expands Urgent Care Operations

As of May 11th, Great Bend Regional Hospital's Urgent Care will be changing and extending their hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Patients can check in at the ER admissions desk on the east side of the hospital. As patients arrive, they are triaged to make sure your illness is not severe enough for the Emergency Room. Following the evaluation, patients are taken to the appropriate area for the illness or injury. All patients are seen by a Registered Nurse (RN) or Physician's Assistant (PA) with the goal of making each visit as quick, efficient and helpful as possible.

Tune in to ChamberConnect Show May 7th

Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Eagle Radio's Patrick Burnett discuss the latest Chamber happenings with Marketing Director Rachel Mawhirter. The April edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, May 7th at 11:35 a.m. This month's show will be centered around the Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament and the Barton County Young Professionals' progress with The Tot Spot playground project.



United Way of Central Kansas

1125 Williams in Great Bend, KS 67530
Office Phone: (620) 792-2403

unitedwayofcentralks@hotmail.com

Submitted by Executive Director Julie Smith

United Way Announces Awards

Larned State Hospital will be hosting a Duck Race to benefit United Way of Central Kansas at the Santa Fe Trail Days. This event will take place on June 13th in Larned following the Parade. Tickets will be sold for \$10.00 each or you can purchase a Quack Pack for \$50.00 and it will include 6 tickets. There will be multiple prizes given away, including \$1,000 to the first place Duck, \$500.00 for second place, and \$250.00 for third place, all of which will be doubled by Larned State Hospital if the winner is present. They will also be selling T-shirts and drawstring sports bags for \$10.00 at the event.

Also in June, we will once again be out serving lunch at the June Jaunt! Come see us on Sunday June 7th at Veteran's Memorial Park for a Hot Dog Feed served and prepared by our amazing Board Members. We will be accepting free will donations for this lunch and all proceeds will benefit Childhood Literacy Kits to be distributed at schools in Great Bend, Ellinwood, and Larned. These kits will include alphabet and number flashcards, a book, crayons, a pencil and dry erase marker, as well as information about Books by the Bushel where you can purchase discount books for your children and you get 1 FREE book for every 10 books you purchase. You can also support UWCK by selecting them as your Bonus Bucks Program choice.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go!" --Dr. Seuss

C.K.C.A. Students Visit Statehouse

Central Kansas Christian Academy 6th through 8th grade students, accompanied by Lisa Beckwith, Jill Snell, and Tim Hammeke visited Topeka last month and had the opportunity to sit at Governor Brownback's desk. The students also had the learning experience of sitting through the legislative session and touring the Kansas History Museum in Topeka.





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May 7, 2015

Crest Theatre • 1905 Lakin Avenue

Great Bend Community Theatre is supported in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency which believes that a great nation deserves great art. View our upcoming schedule of events and ticket information at www.gbct.net.

May 14, 2015

AT&T Wireless • 3407 10th Street

May 21, 2015

Seaport Airlines • 9047 6th Street (Airport)

May 28, 2015

**Clara Barton Hospital Foundation
250 W. 9th in Hoisington**

Clara Barton Hospital Foundation exists to fund innovation, inspire compassion, and strengthen community. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to fundraising for Clara Barton Hospital, a private, non-profit, critical access hospital, serving our local communities and keeping our future healthy. *Please allow patients to park in the lot closest to the door – extra parking available to the west.*

June 4, 2015

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Employment – Barton County	February 14	February 15
Labor Force	17,007	15,622
Employment	16,335	14,969
Unemployment	672	653
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.2%
KS Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.2%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	February 14	February 15
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$492,726	\$504,019
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$273,851	\$281,181

Building Permits	February 14	February 15
Commercial – GB	5	3
Residential - GB	9	8

Sources:

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

