

OUTLOOK

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal **ONLINE**

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Announcing the Official Kickoff of the 2023 Small Business Season

Everything you need to know about the merriest time of year



November marks the official kickoff of Small Business Season™ 2023! This year our campaign to support our neighborhood small businesses will be even bigger than before! The celebration of this grassroots movement aims to make the holiday season a little brighter for our small businesses and the people who love them.

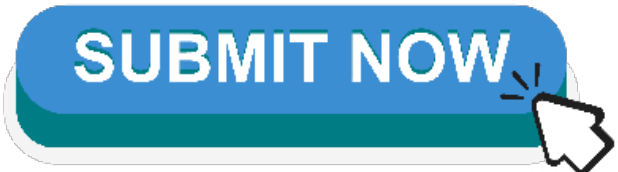
It hasn't been an easy year for any of us. With rising costs, fears of inflation, hiring challenges, and so much more, our local businesses need assistance, and what better time to support their dreams than during the holidays?

As part of Small Business Season, we're encouraging shoppers to support small businesses including retail, dining, and entertainment, as well as other goods and services including artisans, authors, makers, service providers, and more.

Celebrate Small Business Season with "Shop Local & WIN!"

As a further incentive to shop small this holiday season, we're once again hosting our Shop Local & Win contest! We invite you to set aside a portion of your holiday budget to spend it with our small businesses. From holiday meals to looking your best for the company party, from entertaining out-of-own guests to boarding your pet, from getting your home ready for guests to buying teacher gifts or end-of-year thank you's, there are so many ways you can support our local business community.

When consumers spend at least \$20 with a Great Bend Chamber member, they can **SUBMIT** a picture of their receipt and contact information to shoplocal@greatbend.org. Every transaction totaling at least \$20 is an additional entry. Winners will be drawn live on the Chamber's Facebook page, December 21st at 10AM.



Click to jump to the story or link

Where Do Local Candidates Stand on Issues?

The local League of Women Voters of Great Bend/Barton County is active in organizing yearly candidate forums for contested races to help the community understand where candidates stand on the issues. LWV appreciates partnering with the Great Bend Senior Center on October 5 th and the Hoisington Friendship House on October 12 th to provide locations for the recent two candidate forums. Reporters from the Great Bend Tribune and the Great Bend Post have provided excellent newspaper and online coverage of these events. The GB Post provided streaming coverage of the first forum. A total of thirty candidates were invited to the two forums and eighteen were able to attend.

Those contested races included Mayors for Great Bend and Hoisington; City Council positions for Great Bend, Hoisington, and Claflin; Board of Education positions for Great Bend, and Hoisington; and Barton Community College Trustee positions.



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce has been helpful in providing more information on the candidates by posting biographical information on their Events page. You can learn more about the candidates' backgrounds here: <https://members.greatbend.org/events/calendar> When the October calendar comes up click on the Great Bend Candidate Forum on October 5 th . Another way to access the views of the candidates is the national League webpage Vote411.org.

Since 2006 the LWV Education Fund has provided candidate and voting information on this site. The two questions that were asked of each candidate at both forums are also found here. The League encourages the candidates to respond to their online questions as soon as possible so voters can be informed before casting their ballots.

When the answers are submitted voters can view the responses [on www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) Simply select "ON YOUR BALLOT" in the top right of the screen, select your state, then enter your address under "PERSONALIZED BALLOT." Then, click through each of the relevant races. As a representative democracy, we best elect our leaders after first understanding their viewpoints and platforms. Remember to vote on or before Nov. 7, 2023.

ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 7TH

- Ward 1 - all precincts - GBRC Activity Center @ 2715 18th St
- Ward 2 - all precincts - Prince of Peace (St. Patrick) @ 4124 Broadway Ave - Parish Center
- Ward 3 - all precincts - Grace Community Church @ 210 McKinley St - North Entrance
- Ward 4 - all precincts - Great Bend Recreation Center @ Stone St - Burnside Room



Great Bend Rotary Seeks Sponsors

Great Bend's Rotary Club is calling on businesses to sponsor its Half-Court Shot Contest for the 2023-2024 Basketball season. This contest, now in its third year, aims to raise funds for annual scholarships that are awarded to two of the club's Junior Rotarians, who are selected from among Great Bend High School Seniors. Last year's Junior Rotarian Awardees were Madelynn Gregg and Noah Jerke. The sponsorship fee is only \$200, and it helps the club to continue funding the annual scholarships. The sponsor's name will be mentioned during the Men's Varsity home games played at Great Bend High School. Interested? Call Mark Mingenback at 620-791-8858.



IGNITE Rural Business Competition Grand Finale: A Night of Triumph and Celebration



The stage was set, the anticipation was palpable, and the excitement was electric as the IGNITE Rural Business Competition Grand Finale unfolded on October 5th at the iconic Crest Theater in downtown Great Bend, Kansas. This thrilling event marked the culmination of an exhilarating journey that began with the top 10 businesses competing in a semi-final round.

With 1805 total viewers tuning in to the live stream on Thursday night, igniteks.com saw an impressive 887 visitors directly to the site and an additional 1650 coming from Facebook to the site. In the last 30 days alone, there were a total of 2,565 site sessions, showcasing the widespread interest and engagement generated by the competition.

One of the highlights of the evening was the People's Choice award, which was presented to 10-39 Café. They not only earned the admiration of the audience but also an additional \$5,000, thanks to their remarkable 56% share of the votes. A total of 921 votes were cast on the Slido.com platform between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8:50 p.m.

The judges for the evening, Kari Smith, Jason Mayers, and Jerrod Westfahl, played the role of "sharks" or judges, carefully evaluating the top 5 finalists. Each finalist delivered a compelling 10-minute pitch followed by an additional 10-minute question and answer period. The judges' deliberation determined how the prize money would be awarded.

The winners of the IGNITE Rural Business Competition were announced as follows:

- **1st Place: The Greystone - winning \$50,000**
- **2nd Place: 10-39 Café - winning \$30,000**
- **3rd Place: Hatchet Axtion - winning \$10,000**

These businesses demonstrated outstanding innovation, dedication, and a vision for contributing to the Barton County community. The competition showcased the remarkable entrepreneurial spirit thriving in the region.

The IGNITE Rural Business Competition, organized by Great Bend Economic Development's Entrepreneurship Committee, aims to empower entrepreneurs and promote innovation in Barton County, Kansas. The competition provides a platform for emerging businesses to showcase their ideas, win grants, and contribute to the local economy.

To relive the excitement of the IGNITE Rural Business Competition Grand Finale, visit www.igniteks.com for streaming highlights and engaging narratives about the remarkable entrepreneurs who made it to the Top 5.



CHAMBER AFTER HOURS for the IGNITE 2024 Kickoff!

Join us for a lively kickoff event during Global Entrepreneurship Week!

November 13, 2023

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Dry Lake Brewing, 1305 Main Street

- Snacks to fuel your entrepreneurial journey
- A short presentation at 5:30 PM
- Silly games and lots of fun puns
- Free drink ticket for the first 100 attendees

Whether you're a seasoned entrepreneur, curious about the world of business, or just want to support those who are and be with friends, this event is for YOU! Network, learn, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

Hear inspiring stories, and kickstart your journey to success. We can't wait to IGNITE the entrepreneurial spirit with you!

See you on November 13th at Dry Lake Brewing.



Robben Finds Best of Two Worlds at Pawnee Valley

When Julie Robben was offered the best of two worlds at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, she jumped at the chance to fill the dual role. Robben, a Russel native, is the new director of the new PVCH Imaging Department where she is a part of the leadership team, while also providing direct care to patients. “Being able to care for patients alongside this amazing team is a real bonus,” Robben said. “They always have the patients’ best interests at heart.”



“The hospital’s state-of-the-art equipment allows us to provide most of the services that are available at large facilities,” she continued. “In addition, it is great having HaysMed as a resource when needed.” Services offered at the Pat Young Imaging center include: general x-ray; computed tomography (CT); magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); nuclear medicine; ultrasound; mammography; bone densitometry; and pain clinic. The center is staffed by registered radiology technologists who are licensed by the state of Kansas. The staff is cross-trained in different modalities and they are all willing to further their education by working toward advanced credentials, Robben noted. Nuclear medicine and ultrasound services are staffed by HaysMed professionals.

Robben graduated in May 2006 with a bachelor of science in Medical Diagnostic Imaging. She also earned an associate of science in Radiologic Technology and is working on her Master of Professional Studies in Medical Imaging, emphasizing administration.

Robben started working at HaysMed in 2005 as a secretary in the Radiology Department, while attending the Diagnostic Imaging Program at Fort Hays State University. She worked part-time in x-ray and CT for several years at HaysMed while working full-time in imaging at Russell Regional Hospital. “In 2008, I accepted a full time job at Hays Med where I provided imaging services for the past 15 years,” she said. “I also cross-trained in the Cardiac Cath Lab for two years, performing interventional procedures with the cardiologists.”

Pavlu Joins Heart of Kansas at Larned as a Nurse Practitioner

Shelly Pavlu’s background in rural healthcare was the forerunner to her new position at Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Larned where she cares for patients as a nurse practitioner. Pavlu recently started seeing patients of all ages in her family-medicine practice at 522 Broadway. “When I was first introduced to Heart of Kansas, I noticed right away that several staff members have been here for quite some time,” Pavlu said. “Longevity of service is something that I value.”



“In addition, the Heart of Kansas mission is in sync with my personal goals. I always tell my patients that I am their partner in making a plan to empower them to seek their own personal health goals. Heart of Kansas gives me the opportunity to do this by offering the full range of nurse-practitioner services, along with recommendations about preventive healthcare.” Pavlu also noted that she is impressed with the Heart of Kansas behavioral- health services, which include counseling and medication treatment. “Another plus is that everyone I have met here has been welcoming,” Pavlu commented. “Since I am not originally from this area of Kansas, they have been gracious enough to acquaint me with the local area and its residents.”

Pavlu graduated from Santa Fe Trail High School at Carbondale. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing in 1999 at Fort Hays State University where she also earned a doctor of nursing practice in 2021. Prior to her college days, Pavlu was a certified nurse’s aide and certified medication aide. She also became an EMT and volunteers for the local Emergency Medical Services. “Throughout my nursing career, I worked mainly in rural healthcare as a floor nurse but was in public health for a decade,” Pavlu said. “I have truly worked in all aspects of nursing.” She was previously employed by The University of Kansas Health System St. Rose Campus as a provider in family medicine and Convenient Care.

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The Beauty Bar Salon Welcomes Maria Villanueva

We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of our Beauty Bar Salon team, Maria Villanueva, a highly skilled Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) specializing in cutting-edge Neurotoxin Treatments and rejuvenating Chemical Peels.

With her extensive experience and expertise in the field, Maria is dedicated to providing our cherished clients with personalized, top-notch beauty treatments, ensuring remarkable results and a revitalized you.

Come and experience the magic of Maria's transformative touch at The Beauty Bar Salon, located at 1409 Main St. in downtown Great Bend, where every visit promises an extraordinary journey to beauty and wellness. Schedule your appointment now to discover a new level of radiance and confidence! To schedule your experience please call Maria at 620-617-0712. Connect with us on [Facebook!](#)



The Great Bend Police Department and Barton Community College form an alliance.

Christian Rivas, a long-time Great Bend resident, sought practical law enforcement experience before realizing his aspiration of teaching college-level criminal justice. Currently serving as the instructor and coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program at Barton Community College, Rivas retains his part-time law enforcement commission and holds a Level I credential as a hostage-crisis negotiator.

Rivas values the symbiotic partnership between the college and the Great Bend Police Department, emphasizing the reciprocal benefits it offers. Reflecting on his time with the department, Rivas highlighted his role in fostering positive relationships within the local Hispanic community and gaining insight into the unwavering dedication of various public servants, including police officers, deputies, firefighters, dispatchers, and court personnel.

Police Chief Steve Haulmark praised Rivas for his adeptness at forging connections within the community and lauded his practical problem-solving abilities. Haulmark acknowledged the department's awareness of Rivas's career aspirations and expressed gratitude for Rivas's continued collaboration on special events and outreach initiatives. Rivas's real-world experience not only helps humanize the profession but also allows students to interact positively with law enforcement personnel during classroom sessions.



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Taverns

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1921



YEARS 2021

NOT A RETAIL BIZ?

YOU CAN STILL
BE A

STRONG

PART OF SMALL
BUSINESS SEASON.

Nov 1 – Dec 31, 2023

#SmallBusinessSeason

The holiday season is upon us, and 'tis the season for shopping! As a small business owner, you might think that participating in the “Shop Local” movement or Small Business Season is reserved for retail and restaurant establishments. That’s not the case! Small businesses from every sector can actively join in on Small Business Season, which begins November 1 and goes through the end of the year. This initiative creates a vibrant, supportive local economy and helps businesses like yours reap the benefits of increased visibility and customer loyalty.

So let’s explore a few creative ways for non-retail or food industry businesses to participate in Small Business Season and have the best holiday season ever.

Collaborate with Retailers

One of the most effective ways to be a part of Small Business Season as a non-retail business is by collaborating with local retailers. It can be a lot of fun, introduce you to new audiences, and create opportunities for further collaborations in the future. For example, if you run a local grocery store, partner with a retailer that sells cookware and promote a holiday cooking demo. By working together, you both strengthen your ties with the community and increase your visibility.

Offer Exclusive Discounts or Packages

While you may not be selling products, you can still create exclusive holiday offers or packages for local customers. For instance, if you’re a law firm, you can provide a discounted consultation for individuals or businesses in your area. This not only encourages people to use your services but also shows your commitment to the community.

Plus, if you tie it into something that is completely irrelevant to what you do but a part of the holiday season like a special “Pumpkin Spice Consultation” or a “Have family in town for the holidays? Need to make last-minute changes to your will because of the way they’re acting? We’ve got you covered.”

Sponsor Local Events

Another way to engage in Small Business Season is to sponsor local holiday events through the Chamber and other high-profile organizations. Ideas include the annual tree lighting ceremony, charity fundraisers, or even a Small Business Season challenge or Bingo Card. By sponsoring these events or contests, you show your support for the local community and gain valuable exposure among the event attendees.

Create Local Gift Guides

Regardless of your industry, you can create local gift guides that highlight the products or services of local retailers. Share these guides on your website, through social media, or via email newsletters. It not only supports your local business community but also positions you as a resource for holiday shoppers.

Partner with Charities and Nonprofits

The holidays are a time for giving, and small businesses can show their community spirit by partnering with local charities. Consider organizing food drives, toy drives, or fundraising events to support those in need during the holiday season. Some businesses with good locations set up a “giving tree” where the needs of the community are sponsored by an individual or company that takes a tag and promises to satisfy the need listed on the tag. This not only fosters goodwill but also demonstrates your commitment to your area.

Highlight Local Success Stories

Use your platform to showcase local success stories. Bonus points if those success stories feature your clients. Post interviews or profiles of local business owners, artists, or community leaders. This not only supports local talent but also positions your business as an advocate for the community.

New Hire?
New Service?
*Submit the
NEW Here!*



No formal press release? No communications department? No problem! Simply scan and let us know what's going on in your business, and we'll do the rest!

Not a retail biz? cont'd

Engage on Social Media

Stay active on social media platforms during the holiday season. Share and engage with content from local businesses and use relevant hashtags to join the #SmallBusinessSeason conversation. Encourage your followers to do the same.

Participating in Small Business Season during the holidays is not exclusive to retail businesses. As a non-retail small business, you can play a significant role in fostering a strong sense of community, supporting the local economy, and strengthening your own business in the process.

By collaborating and participating in these activities, you can make a meaningful contribution to the holiday season's spirit of giving and community support.

This Small Business Season let's all join hands and shop local and small to build a stronger, more vibrant community.

HIREWORKS is Happening November 8th

Nov 8
Hireworks
GROW WORKFORCE
Employer and Job Seeker WORKFORCE EVENT
GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER | NOVEMBER 8
EMPLOYER WORKFORCE PANEL | 2 PM
JOB FAIR & BUSINESS EXPO | 4 PM - 7 PM
Great Bend ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
A Barton County Partnership for Growth

HIREWORKS GOALS...

To empower and support both job seekers and businesses. This will be accomplished through the sharing of best practices, resources, training, programs, and incentives available to build a talent pipeline reflective of the Barton County community and to put people back to work.

Employers: Register ahead to join the discussion on workforce. Area professionals join the panel to talk all things recruiting, retention, and HR best practices. Following the panel discussion, is a little networking or deeper dive/one-on-ones. At 4 p.m., the job fair and business expo begins. The job fair provides businesses with the opportunity to showcase their organization and meet potential candidates. Having this event branded as a Business Expo as well, allows those that are low-key looking to hear more about the businesses in the area without commitment.

Job Seekers: Job Seekers are welcome to join at 4 pm and the event is Free to Attend! Job seekers can participate in breakout sessions throughout the event, and be entered to win PRIZES at the end of the evening (Prizes include an iPad, Gift Certificates for workwear, and classes at BCC). Breakout Sessions are only about 15-20 minutes and include: Top 10 Ways to Get & Keep a Job, Lead at Any Level, and Interviewing 101: Make a Great First Impression.

Extras: Lana's Catering and Goodies will be set up at 3 p.m. to keep participants fed.

Visit Site: www.gbenedinc.com/growworkforce

NOMINATIONS

NOW OPEN
NOW THRU DEC. 15TH

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CITIZENS
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YEAR

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OF THE
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Sunflower Early Education Center celebrates new playground

VIEW ALL RIBBON CUTTING PHOTOS HERE



Sunflower Early Education Center (EEC) recently opened a brand new playground with the help of donations from 100+ People Who Care and other sources. The playground is available to all children at EEC, but is primarily used by the Incredible Years Preschool students. The playground is crucial for the children's development as it helps them acquire essential learning skills while having fun, such as social and motor skills, imaginative play, and problem-solving.

The playground cost \$54,197, and it features poured-in-place rubber flooring to provide children with special needs the best opportunity to enjoy playing with their peers. The grand opening ceremony took place on Thursday, Sept. 28 at EEC.

"The children have been eagerly waiting for this," said McKinley Phillips, the EEC director. "Watching them enjoy their new play area has been so gratifying."



Abbey Carpet & Flooring Commemorates 50 Years

We commemorated half a century of excellence with Abbey Carpet & Flooring's 50th-anniversary celebration. Back in 1973, Al Smith, then a barber in Great Bend, unexpectedly ventured into the world of carpet sales. Five rolls turned into ten, then twenty, until their garage brimmed with success, and a larger space was imperative.

However, the journey wasn't without hurdles. A tumultuous summer flood in 1981 submerged rolls of carpet and flooring, prompting the Smiths to salvage what they could and dry them out in the expo buildings west of Great Bend, generously lent by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. Amidst the chaos, a devastating tornado struck, compounding the challenges for Al and Pat Smith, who vividly recalled the heartache of watching their hard work in disarray.

As part of the 50th anniversary, a Chamber Ribbon Cutting hosted by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce marked a turning point. Al and Pat's grandson, Creighton, and his wife, Sasha Lahman, have rejoined the fold, infusing fresh energy into the family-owned business.



To mark this significant milestone, the community was invited to a Chamber coffee and ribbon-cutting event in the freshly renovated showroom, a testament to the evolution of Abbey Carpet & Flooring over five decades. Stay connected with Abbey Carpet through on Facebook or by visiting their official website at <https://greatbend.abbeycarpet.com/>.

VIEW ALL RIBBON CUTTING PHOTOS HERE



Doonan Specialized Trailers Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence in Specialized Trailer Manufacturing

Doonan Specialized Trailers proudly marked its 50th anniversary as a pioneering force in the trailer industry. Established in 1973 by founder Wendell Doonan, the company has grown to encompass approximately 100 employees and operates across all 50 states, serving the diverse needs of owner-operators nationwide.

For half a century, Doonan Specialized Trailer, LLC has dedicated itself to engineering and producing custom flatbeds, drop decks, double drops, oilfield trailers, extendibles, and RGN lowbeds, catering to the ever-evolving demands of the industry. Its Best-in-Class Dealer Network ensures personalized service, helping customers find the perfect trailer for their specific needs.

To commemorate this milestone, the company opened up its doors to the community for an Open House, prepared a meal for every employee, and invited the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony. During the ceremony, VP of Operations Mike Ruddle, debuted their brand new 50th Anniversary mudflaps which are now being installed on all new trailers produced over the next year, starting October 18, 2023. This gesture reflects Doonan's enduring commitment to its legacy and continued dedication to providing top-tier solutions for its customers.

Congratulations to Doonan Specialized Trailers and thank you for your continued excellence in representing the Heartland!



USD 428 SUPPORT SERVICES OPENS ITS DOORS

[VIEW ALL RIBBON CUTTING PHOTOS HERE](#)



Great Bend USD 428 recently celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated Support Services Building at 625 E 10th Street. To mark this occasion, the district hosted an Open House, Job Fair, and Ribbon Cutting on October 11th to welcome the community to the facility.

The USD 428 Support Services Building is an example testament to the district's commitment to enhancing the overall educational experience for its students. This facility brings together several crucial school district departments under one roof, including maintenance, grounds, transportation, and the central kitchen. These departments play an important role in providing students with nutritious meals, safe transportation, and a clean and conducive environment for learning.

One of the highlights of this renovation project is the expansion of the Central Kitchen. The additional space has enabled the district's culinary team to elevate the quality of food prepared for students. With this expansion, the team will introduce new menu offerings and more made-from-scratch cooking.

"I'm proud of this facility and the efficiencies it creates for our staff," said Khrist Thexton, USD 428 Superintendent, "by bringing these departments together we're seeing the benefit of teamwork and how it positively impacts our schools and students. Our directors are doing a great job getting the facility up and running."



RIBBON CUTTINGS



Key personnel at the new Support Services Building include: Kristy Alvord, Food Service Director; Cody Schmidt, Grounds & Transportation Director; Dirk Davis, Maintenance Director.

For more information about USD 428 Support Services, please contact the District Education Center at 620-793-1500.

Corinthians Hill Event Center Open for All Event Types

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a Ribbon Cutting event that highlighted Corinthians Hill Event Center, located on 14 acres of beautiful Kansas landscape in Great Bend. The unique venue has become a popular destination for a wide range of events, including weddings, business meetings, and more, attracting visitors not just from the local area, but also from neighboring states such as Missouri, Oklahoma, and Alabama. Owned and curated by Debbie Deutsch, the venue provides a unique and picturesque setting for all its guests, thanks to Debbie's passion for design and creating unforgettable experiences.

Corinthians Hill Event Center offers a captivating rural setting that enchants every visitor. The sprawling landscapes provide a stunning backdrop, perfect for capturing timeless moments during every occasion. Adding to the allure, the outdoor ceremony area boasts a newly installed waterfall feature, enhancing the venue's rustic yet refined ambiance.

Spanning an impressive 9,800 square feet and capable of accommodating up to 500 guests, the event center combines rustic charm with a touch of shabby chic elegance. The interior features charming barn wood on the ceiling and corrugated tin on the walls, exuding a cozy and inviting atmosphere. The space is adorned with delicate crystal chandeliers and Edison lights suspended from above, casting a warm and inviting glow throughout the venue.

The Grand Hall, boasting breathtaking panoramic views, is lined with floor-to-ceiling windows on the east, south, and north walls. Opening to an outdoor lighted dancefloor, complete with a cozy firepit and ample seating, the east wall glass doors provide a seamless transition between the indoor and outdoor spaces, offering guests an unparalleled experience.

Debbie Deutsch's rich background in Interior Design and Fine Arts, combined with extensive training across the United States and Europe, is evident in every aspect of Corinthians Hill. Her business, Cornerstone Interiors LLC, established in 1981, is known for its dedication to bringing clients' visions to life.

From the breathtaking views to the meticulously crafted event spaces, Corinthians Hill sets the standard for event venues in the region. Whether it's a wedding, birthday party, business meeting, or any other special occasion, Corinthians Hill promises an unparalleled and unforgettable experience. The team at Corinthians Hill is dedicated to going above and beyond for their guests and delivering a unique experience not often found in Central Kansas. To learn more or schedule a tour, please visit www.corinthianshilleventcenter.com.





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!

Opening of Great Bend Justice Center Commemorated

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce President Megan Barfield welcomed about 75 people gathered for the opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand new Great Bend Justice Center (12th and Baker) in October.

This Justice Center represents not just a physical structure, but a symbol of the City of Great Bend's commitment to upholding justice and fostering a safe environment for our businesses to thrive. With its state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge technology, this center stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to the rule of law and the protection of our citizens and businesses.

In the competitive landscape of the modern world, attracting and retaining both talented individuals and businesses is paramount to our continued success. The Great Bend Justice Center is a cornerstone in our efforts to create an environment that fosters growth and prosperity. It signals to prospective investors and entrepreneurs that Great Bend is not only a safe and secure community but also a dynamic hub of opportunity and innovation.

Police Chief Steve Haulmark and Mayor Cody Schmidt echoed thanking the City Council and the citizens of Great Bend for believing in the necessary construction. Representatives from GLMV Architecture and McCown Gordon Construction, both based in Wichita, were also present.



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GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD PLANS FOR FUTURE



The Great Bend Chamber Board of Directors convened for their annual strategic planning retreat with a clear focus on five key areas: workforce development, community marketing, advocacy efforts, the future of the 1125 Williams building, and retention of both businesses and people. The board members met on the top floor of the Great Bend Housing Authority high-rise building and worked collaboratively to devise a comprehensive plan that would address each of these focus areas and ensure the chamber's sustained success for the next century.

NOMINATIONS

NOW OPEN
NOW THRU DEC. 15TH

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS
OF THE
YEAR

CITIZENS
OF THE
YEAR

NEXTGEN LEADER
OF THE
YEAR

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ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN SAVE THE DATE - NEW VENUE IN 2024

The 102nd Annual Awards is scheduled for Saturday, February 24th, 2024 at the Corinthians Hill Event Center. Join us in celebrating our community's finest by submitting your nominations for the Chamber's Annual Awards. This is your chance to honor the exceptional individuals and businesses that have made a significant impact on our community. We urge you to take this opportunity to recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication. Thank you for your support in celebrating the best of our community!

Nomination Deadline is December 15, 2023.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TODAY!

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



NEXTGEN LEADER
OF THE YEAR





HARPER CAMPERLAND NOW BLUE COMPASS RV

In March, Harper Camperland celebrated its 40th year of business in Great Bend. In September, the business celebrated another Milestone: its conversion to Bue Compass RV. Read the full story on Great Bend Post [Here](#).

[MANY CONGRATS TO THE TEAM AT BLUE COMPASS!](#)

The Outlaw Extravaganza



NOVEMBER 18TH @ 4 PM
BUSHTON COMMUNITY BUILDING
301 NORTH MAIN STREET
BUSHTON, KS

Fundraiser to support S.R.C.A. Dragstrip

BATTLE OF THE THUMBS

PULLED PORK DINNER

SILENT AUCTION

You may contact Crystal Zink @ 620-562-0254 or Summer Zink @ 620-786-9727 with any questions
More information available on OUTLAW EXTRAVAGANZA Facebook event page
S.R.C.A is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.



OUTLAW EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER

SRCA Dragstrip volunteers invite the public to an fundraiser to help support the famous dragstrip!

Festivities include a practice tree race, dinner, cash bar, and silent auction, Battle of the Thumbs Competition, and more!

Time Trials begin at 5 PM.

Dinner at 5:30 PM.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Learn more by contacting Crystal Zink at 620-564-0254 or Summer Zink at 620-786-9727.

Connect with the event on Facebook [HERE](#).

SRCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

RSVP FOR DINNER [HERE](#).

Great Bend Children's Clinic Team Joins The University of Kansas Health System

After many years of working with The University of Kansas Health System to care for the babies and children of Great Bend, the Great Bend Children's Clinic providers and staff joined the health system Oct. 1. Over the years, the collaboration has included care for newborns at Great Bend Campus.



"A future together seemed a natural extension of our relationship," Marta Edmonds, MD, founder of Great Bend Children's Clinic, said. "We believe joining The University of Kansas Health System in Great Bend is the best decision for our patients, staff and care team. Our shared commitment to serving the community and providing excellent patient care is an ideal fit."

Great Bend Children's Clinic has cared for babies, children and teens in the area for more than three decades.

"We are so pleased to add the expertise of the Great Bend Children's Clinic to our health system team," said John Worden, Great Bend Campus administrator. "Expanding our pediatric services strengthens our commitment to care for the entire Great Bend community."

The transition to join the health system requires a change in technology at the clinic, and this may result in some patient appointments being rescheduled. Affected patients will be contacted directly. Patient care and treatment plans will not be affected by the change.

To schedule an appointment with our pediatrics care team, call 620-792-5437.

About The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus

The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus is part of the premier academic health system providing a full range of care for the region and the state of Kansas. Other health system facilities are located in the Kansas City area and Topeka. The health system includes The University of Kansas Physicians, the largest multispecialty physician group in the region, and is affiliated with the University of Kansas Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Professions, and their leading-edge research projects. Services range from routine primary care to multispecialty care for complex conditions. The health system receives no state or local appropriations, instead relying on operating revenue, bonding authority and philanthropy. For more information, visit KansasHealthSystem.com. For information specific to Great Bend Campus, visit www.KansasHealthSystem.com/GreatBend.

Community Support Services (CSS) has relocated to 5501 10th Street, a former radio station, providing ample space for their growing team of 14, soon to be 16. The move from their previous location at 5815 Broadway was necessary due to space constraints and increasing demand for their services. CSS, a department of The Center for Counseling & Consultation, offers various programs such as Community Psychiatric Support & Treatment, Attendant Care, Psycho-Social Rehab, and more, catering to individuals with mental health needs. Those interested in these services can reach out to The Center at 620-792-2544.

Community Support Services moves to 10th Street Location





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**CHAMBER
COFFEE
SCHEDULE**

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

November 2nd, 2023
CENTRAL KANSAS PARTNERSHIP
3301 Lakin

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

November 9th, 2023
MEYERS ENTERPRISES
CHAMBER BOARD ROOM | 1125 Williams

We are an advertising agency based in Hoisington, KS. We focus on media buying, placement, and optimization. Driving sales and leads with Google and Meta Ads, for example. You can find more information on our website: www.meyersenterprises.com

November 16th, 2023
HEART OF KANSAS/MISS PRETTY PICKLES
1212 Main St.

Heart of Kansas Mercantile and Miss Pretty Pickles is a wonderful shop featuring gifts, unique Kansas products, foods, ladies fashion, children's clothing toys and books, and local artisan works. We always have free food sampling. Stop in and see us and you will be amazed.

November 30th, 2023
THE BEAUTY BAR SALON AND BOUTIQUE
with Perfectly Paisley Boutique
1409 Main St.

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting following our Chamber Coffee in our newly renovated location in downtown Great Bend. At the Beauty Bar Salon & Boutique, we will achieve your unique, fresh look to send you into the world with confidence. We offer a full array of services including haircuts for the whole family, haircolor, balayage, manicures, pedicures, shellac, facials, lash lifting, body waxing and just added, neurotoxin treatments and chemical peels. Guests will also enjoy new fashion within the Perfectly Paisley Boutique located inside the salon. We can't wait to see you!

December 7th, 2023
CREDIT UNION OF AMERICA
4708 10th St.

Welcome to Friendly! Credit Union of America is a credit union, headquartered in Wichita, KS, started by teachers in 1935 and now serving 80,000+ members in Kansas. With 14 locations, CUA offers free checking, low-rate auto loans, and home loans with local servicing & payments.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

HIGHLIGHTED NOVEMBER EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1... Shafer Art Gallery Exhibit, Shafer Art Gallery, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- 2... Chamber Coffee: Central Kansas Partnership, 3301 Lakin, 9:00 AM**
- 2... BCC Student recital, Morrison Chapel, 4:00 PM
- 2... ADOPT-A-PET Fundraiser, 1615 10th St., 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- 3... Musical Bingo and Trivia Night, VFW Post #3111 504 Washington St, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
- 3... American Legion Argonne Post 180: Beef & Noodles, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 4... Mustache You to Shop Local Today!
- 4... Pickleball Turkey Classic, Panther Activity Center (PAC)
- 5... Pickleball Turkey Classic, Panther Activity Center (PAC)
- 6... Hamburger Feed, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 7... Election Day
- 8... HireWorks, Great Bend Events Center, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- 8... GBHS Vocal Music Showcase & Coffee, GBHS Auditorium, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- 8... KCSL's Babies and Tykes Day Out, 1214 Stone St., 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 9... Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Meyers Enterprises, 1125 Williams, 9 AM**
- 9... BCC Fall Concert, Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30 PM
- 10... Karaoke Night, VFW Post #3111, 504 Washington, 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- 10... GBHS Fall Play, GBHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
- 10... Adaptive Thanksgiving Dance, Great Bend Rec, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- 11... GBHS Fall Play, GBHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
- 11... Holiday Open Houses
- 11... Sunflower Diversified Turkey Trot 5k, Brit Spaugh Park, 9:30 AM
- 11... Winter Kraft Market, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 12... GBHS Fall Play, GBHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
- 13... Chamber After Hours: Great Bend Economic Development, 1305 Main St., 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**
- 13... American Legion Auxiliary Soup and Supper, American Legion Post, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 13... GBHS Fall Play, GBHS Auditorium, 2:00 PM
- 16... Chamber Coffee: Heart of Kansas Mercantile/Miss Pretty Pickles, 1212 Main St., 9:00 AM**
- 18... American Legion Spaghetti Night, American Legion Post 180, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:30PM
- 18... Find A Turkey!
- 18... Laundry Love, Discount Laundry, 924 Jefferson St., 10:00 Am – 2:00 PM
- 18... S.R.C.A. Dragstrip Fundraiser, 301 N Main St., Bushton, 4:00 PM
- 19... VFW Post #3111 Brunch, 504 Washington, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- 23... HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- 24... Black Friday Day of Shopping in Great Bend
- 24... Fridays on Forest, Forest Avenue, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- 24... American Legion Fried Chicken Friday, American Legion Post 180, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 24... Military and First Responders Night Out, 916 Williams, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 25... Small Business Saturday, Downtown Main St.
- 25... Home for the Holidays Festival and Parade, Jack Kilby Square
- 30... Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: The Beauty Bar, 1409 Main St., 9:00 AM**

Recurring Events:

- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 PM
Barton County Commission Meetings, Tuesdays, 9 AM

STAY INFORMED AT GREATBEND.ORG

WIN \$1,000 TO EXPLORE GREAT BEND!

\$500 2ND PLACE
\$250 3RD PLACE
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- A440 Music
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- Anytime Fitness
- Bank of the Plains
- Beauty Bar/Perfectly Paisley Boutique
- Bling Great Bend
- Brookdale Great Bend
- Dilly & Doc Creative Studio
- Doan's Outdoor Store
- Great Bend Coffee
- Heart of Kansas Mercantile/Miss Pretty Pickles
- Kiowa Kitchen
- Kustom Floor Designs
- Mindsculpt Games
- Mitchell's Bakery
- P&S Security
- Refined Medley
- Rosewood Bargain Barn
- Rosewood Furniture Gallery
- Rosewood Wine Cellar
- Schenkel Construction Co, Inc.
- Sutherland Lumber Co.
- That Hipster Place
- The Wright Place
- Waters Hardware
- Westside Market
- Yeraldi's Boutique
- Yours Truly Gift & Flower Shoppe, LLC

Nov. 4th - Mustache You To Shop Local Day
Nov. 11th - Open Houses
Nov. 18th - Find the Turkey Day
Nov. 24th - Shop Local Black Friday
Nov. 25th - Small Business Saturday,
 Home for the Holidays Festival &
 Parade, Cookie Contest - AND MUCH
 MORE!

 **EXPLORE GREAT BEND**
www.exploregreatbend.com

Contest Rules: There is no cost to register. You may register for ONLY YOURSELF one time per business per event day (Saturdays & Black Friday ONLY). Prize money will be in the form of Participating store gift cards. Store Hours May Vary. Winners will be announced on Nov. 25th after the

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Get Your Home For the Holidays Schedule!

The City of Great Bend would like to make an exciting announcement regarding the Home for the Holidays Festival & Parade that will take place on Saturday, November 25, 2023. This is the 18th consecutive year of this festival and parade, and it has become a holiday tradition that brings Santa to town.

The first exciting announcement regarding the Home for the Holidays Parade is the Grand Marshal. Two years ago, the city took nominations for the next five years and then had a committee of various individuals vote on the winners. **The 2023 Grand Marshall is... Mr. Joe Boley!** Joe has been a Great Bend resident for more than 60 years. Joe was a band director at GBHS, Roosevelt Jr. High and the Great Bend City Band. Joe serves on the Barton County Historical Society Board and has been president of Golden Belt Community Concert Association. Joe just released a book about the wonderful Band Directors of Great Bend! He continues to serve and sing for his church and spends his time on various community groups.

The next announcement is the theme for the 2023 Home for the Holidays Parade! Hayes stated, "This theme is perfectly tied with our Grand Marshall pick as well... The Music of Christmas! We look forward to all the unique lighted entries into our parade this year!" Parade forms have been mailed out and can be found online at www.exploregreatbend.com under the Event Info tab.

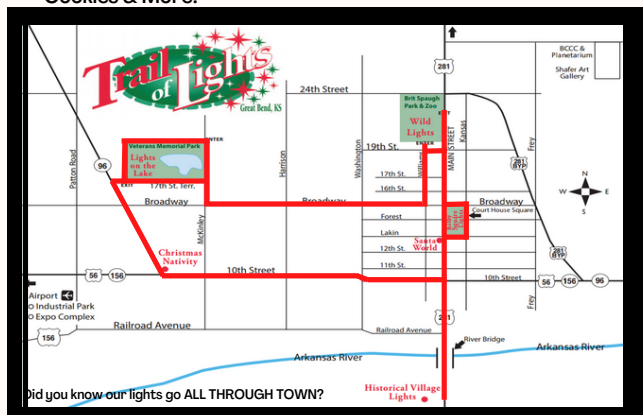
For additional information regarding the Home for the Holidays Festival and Parade call 620-793-4111 or via email chayes@greatbendks.net.

[DOWNLOAD AND VIEW ENTIRE SCHEDULE HERE.](#)



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE - NOV. 25TH

- 8-Noon: The Last Day to Participate in The \$1,000 to Explore Great Bend
- 10-4pm: Dilly & Doc: Pop-up Market: (1119 Main - Dilly & Doc & Bingo Hall)
- 10-4pm: Great Bend Cookie Contest: Rosewood Furniture Gallery (1607 Main)
- 5:30pm: Home for the Holidays Lighted Parade (Main Street)
- 6:15pm: Light the Square all in Jack Kilby Square
 - Annual Lighting of the Mayors Tree - Mayor Cody Schmidt
 - Christmas Carol Games
 - Announcement of Cookie Contest, Parade & Explore GB Winners!
 - Visit Santa's Around the World
 - Pick up your Rosewood Golden Ticket at the Trail of Lights!
 - Horse Drawn Carriage & Wagon Rides provided by Rosewood Services
 - Free Train Rides provided by the City of Great Bend
 - Free Hot Dogs, Hot Chocolate, Funnel Cakes, Cider, Cookies & More!



WWW.EXPLOREGREATBEND.COM
620-793-4111



Holidays
— IN —
GREAT BEND
2023



NOVEMBER 2023 EVENTS

- 2 **BCC Student Recital:** BCC, Morrison Chapel, 4pm
- 4 **Explore Great Bend:** Mustache You to Shop Local Day, participating stores
- 4-5 **Pickleball Turkey Classic:** Men, women, and doubles teams. 2027 Morton
- 8 **HS Vocal Music Showcase & Coffee:** GBHS gym
- 9 **BCC Combined Concert with Sterling College:** BCC, Fine Arts Aud., 3p
- 10-12 **HS Fall Play:** HS Auditorium, 11th & 12th @ 7pm, 13th @ 2pm
- 10 **Adaptive Thanksgiving Dance:** GBRec Activity Center, 7:30-9pm
- 11 **Happy Veterans Day!** Special Thanks to those who serve our country!
- 11 **Christmas Vendor Event:** 3111 10th St. 10am-4pm
- 11 **Explore Great Bend:** Open Houses, participating stores
- 11 **Forest Avenue Antiques:** Open House, 10% Storewide Sale
- 14 **Dancing Around the World Presentation:** BCC Studio 34, 6:30pm
- 16 **Thanksgiving Dinner:** Great Bend Senior Center, 12pm
- 16 **BCC Instrumental Concert:** BCC Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30pm
- 16-18 **Great Bend Community Theatre:** Mouse Trap, 7:30pm
- 17 **Pink Friday:** Yours Truly, 9am-6pm
- 18 **Waters Hardware Holiday Open House:** 9am-4pm
- 18 **Explore Great Bend:** Find the Turkey Day, participating stores
- 19 **Great Bend Community Theatre:** Mouse Trap, 2pm
- 21-30 **Christmas Window Decoration Contest:** various store fronts downtown
- 23 **Happy Thanksgiving!**
- 24 **Explore Great Bend:** Shop Local Black Friday, participating stores
- 24 **Great Bend Alive:** Forest St.
- 24-30 **Wheatland Electric Christmas Light Contest:** various homes in town
- 25 **Christmas Open House:** Refined Medley, 10am-5:30pm
- 25-30 **Rosewood Golden Tickets:** Santa's Around the World - Lakin & Main
- 25 **Explore Great Bend:** Small Business Saturday, participating stores
- 25 **Forest Avenue Antiques:** Open House, 10% Storewide Sale
- 25 **Home for the Holidays Festival & Parade:** (Downtown Great Bend)
- 25 **Dilly & Doc: Holiday Pop-up Market:** Dilly & Doc and Bingo Hall, 10am-4pm
- 25 **Great Bend Cookie Contest:** various participating stores
- 26-30 **Santa's Around the World:** 1223 Main St - Thurs/Fri: 4-6pm, Sat/Sun 1-6pm
- 26-30 **Golden Belt Model Railroad:** 1405 Main St. - Thurs/Fri: 4-6pm, Sat/Sun 1-6pm
- 28 **Giving Tuesday** -Support local charities www.goldenbeltgives.org
- 30 **BCC Student Recital 2:** BCC, Morrison Chapel 7pm

