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CHAMBER of COMMERCE
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Outlook

Business Journal

www.greatbend.org

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of Commerce and Economic Development*

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EXPANDING HORIZONS

Chamber Announces Trip to China October 2015

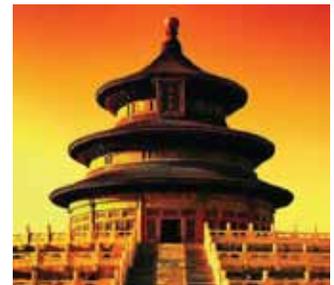
The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development invites YOU to come with us to Discover China during a nine-day, all-inclusive tour of Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. The trip is scheduled October 10-18, 2015 in partnership with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce is working with Citisinc International to provide its members with an unforgettable travel experience to one of the world's fastest growing commerce centers. They have extended an invitation to our Great Bend Chamber and its members to join in their adventure and experience the Orient while networking with other Kansas professionals on the journey of a lifetime.

The 9-day, all-inclusive trip begins and ends in Los Angeles, California. Once you cross the international dateline, the dynamic itinerary features a mix of individual and group activities designed to immerse you in the Chinese architecture, culture, and commerce.

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 the beautiful West Lake.

Cost per person is as low as \$2,340 if reserved by March 1st with double occupancy. This 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. Other optional tours are also available. You do not have to be a Chamber member to attend, so this is a great way to travel with out-of-town relatives or friends at a reduced price! — *Cont. on Page 2*



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— Cont. from Page 1

EXPANDING HORIZONS

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 the beautiful West Lake. Other optional tours are also available for purchase while you are on the trip.

ITINERARY SUMMARY:

- Day 1 - LA to Beijing
- Day 2 - Arrive in Beijing. Visit attractions.
- Day 3 - Experience Beijing
- Day 4 - Great Wall
- Day 5 - Shanghai/Suzhou
- Day 6 - Suzhou/Hangzhou
- Day 7 - Morning Cruise & Afternoon Bus Tour
- Day 8 - Shanghai
- Day 9 - Shanghai to LA

TRIP PRICING GUIDELINES:

- Base: \$2,499 Per Person (double occupancy)
- + \$500 for single room
- \$100 for Chamber member double occupancy
- \$49 early bird discount (Reserved by March 1st)
- Chamber Member with Double Occupancy booked before March 1st: **\$2,350/Person**

LEARN MORE:

Plan to join us January 27th at 5:30 p.m. for a FREE informational meeting in the Chamber Board Room. Let us know you're coming: greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx

EXPANDING HORIZONS

SAVE THE DATE

for the **93rd Annual Meeting & Banquet**
for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development

Saturday the 21st of February, 2015
at the Great Bend Convention Center
- Cocktail Attire -

6:00 - Social & Cocktail Hour
7:00 - Dinner & Program

Reserved Table of Eight - \$400
Individual Tickets - \$50

Register at the Chamber Office - OR - Online:
www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx
For more information, call 620-792-2401

LEARN MORE...

The Chamber is planning a trip to China!
October 10-18, 2015

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Beautification Committee Completes Two Recent Projects in Great Bend

The Beautification Committee, under the auspices of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, recently completed two new projects for the enjoyment of Great Bend residents. "Landscaping and exterior painting at the Great Bend Post Office have transformed the building so it is more welcoming to the thousands of people who use that facility each year," Committee Chair Linda Dougherty says. "Everyone has to go to the Post Office, so it should represent our community well."

The Post Office project started in 2013, and included painting the exterior of the building, hiring Northview Nursery to landscape the front, installing a watering system, and adding in two bronze whooping cranes to tie in the area's birding culture.

"Our other project for this year was adding new metal art to the planters in downtown Great Bend, adding onto a project completed several years ago," Dougherty says. "The planters have beautiful flowers and plants during the growing months, but winter can be rough on the plant life and we wanted the planters to match the rest of the City's beautiful decorations."

The committee enlisted the help of Hoisington company B&B Metal Arts to create three dimensional metal snowflakes and trees attached to a sturdy grid structure placed inside each of the large planters along Main Street. The rigid structure is designed to prevent blowing or tipping to preserve the decorations for years to come.

The Beautification committee was formed in 1996, and has since completed several notable projects in Great Bend. Past projects include the Broadway Islands, the Great Bend Municipal Airport, the planters on Main Street, landscaping and bronze statues at the Great Bend Public Library, and numerous gardens in Great Bend's parks and public facilities.

The Beautification Committee includes Linda Dougherty (chair), June Hillman, Violet Hiss, Mary Kummer, Deon Lupton, and Loretta Miller. In addition to the projects listed above, the Beautification Committee also sponsors their Garden Tour each summer, and contributes to the K-96 June Jaunt. For more information or to get involved, contact Dougherty at 620-793-3359.



Tune in to ChamberConnect Show Dec. 4

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 December edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, December 4th at 11:35 a.m. This month's show will be centered around the Chamber's recently announced travel opportunity to China in 2015.



Overland Property Group Breaks Ground on New Apartment Complex

Last month, Leawood-based development company Overland Property Group broke ground on a new apartment complex in Great Bend. The 48-unit property will have 2 and 3 bedroom apartments split between two buildings. Each unit will feature upgrades such as knotty alder cabinets, walk-in closets, and open concept living areas. Residents will also get to enjoy a clubhouse with a fitness facility, meeting space, and more. The new property will be known as The Reserves at Trail Ridge.

"The quality of our developments across the Midwest is unlike most others. We have a very high standard of quality with regards to architecture, design, construction, and management," says Matt Gillam, Vice President of Development. "This complex will cater to working class families, young professionals, and seniors."

Overland Property Group was founded in 2002, and operates apartment complexes all over the Midwest with locations in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado and Texas.

"Our management team takes pride in our leasing, maintenance, housekeeping, and grounds keeping ensuring our residents receive an exceptional living experience," Gillam says. "Our goal is to provide luxury living at an affordable price."

Overland Property Group will begin accepting applications for residents once the construction is nearing completion. For more information or to see a live construction camera, visit Overland Property Group at www.ovp-group.com or call 913-396-6310.



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Announcements from Farmers Bank

Farmers Bank Recognizes Retiring Employees



Farmers Bank & Trust congratulates Mel Holopirek, Donald Hanhardt and Ingrid Bird as they retire on December 31, 2014. They have been a valuable asset to Farmers Bank and Trust, serving customers for a combined total of 78 years, and will be missed by many.

Mel Holopirek, Vice President and Albert Branch Manager, started with Farmers Bank & Trust on August 24, 1998. Mel's hard work, diligence and personal service have been helpful to bank customers for over 16 years. Donald Hanhardt, Assistant Vice President and Loan Officer, started with Farmers Bank on May 1, 1961, just out of high school. His lifelong career with Farmers Bank has led to 53 years of dedicated service and deep relationships with our customers. Ingrid Bird has been with Farmers Bank & Trust as a teller since July 11, 2005. Ingrid has provided customers with personal quality service for over nine years. "We appreciate the dedication and efforts of our Albert team. Their loyalty and commitment has been tremendous. I have really enjoyed working with these individuals," said President and CEO W.R. Robbins. "In fact, I have worked with Don Hanhardt since I came on board in 1971. We wish them all well in their new ventures and are saddened to see such devoted members of our family leave."

Tim Boxberger will step right in as the Albert Branch Manager. Tim is a long-term Farmers Bank and former Albert Branch employee bringing with him many years of agricultural and commercial lending experience. Tim is familiar with the market and the bank's customer base and looks forward to providing uninterrupted service and support to customers in the Albert community.

You Can Help - Light Up a Child's Life Project

Light up a child's life this Christmas by adopting a child or a family of children through this community project. For 21 years, Barton County has generously supported this project to make Christmas brighter for less fortunate children. Businesses, groups and individuals adopt children from giving trees located at Farmers Bank's location. The gifts are personalized based on each child's wish list, including toys, clothes and necessities. Donations may be returned to the downtown location at 1612 Main by Friday, December 12th. Help make this season more joyful for families-in-need, friends and neighbors. Call 620-792-1431 or stop by either bank location.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of November, the Barton County Young Professionals group gathered for two different events. The first was a quarterly networking mixer hosted by Animal Medical Center on Friday, November 7th in their horse barn at 622 McKinley. More than 200 people were in attendance, with 70 of those being new members who signed up that night. Free food, drinks, and over \$1000 in prizes helped draw the record crowd. Congratulations to Irma Acosta who won the \$400 High Call Outfitters gift card, and to Casey Hatzenbuehler who won the \$400 P&S Security gift card!

On Tuesday, November 18th, the group met for a Personal Development Luncheon on Employer Benefit Programs, facilitated by Ruth Bealer, HR Director for Adams Brown Beran & Ball. There were 18 members in attendance. The month of November took the growing group's roster from 600 members to nearly 680. To see photos from past events, find the Barton County Young Professionals group on Facebook.

In December, the group will connect for the Annual Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 9th from 6-8 p.m. at Charlie's Place, 11th & Main in Great Bend. The first 60 people through the door will receive drink tickets for free beverages from Damm Pipe & Testing, and prizes will be awarded to the tackiest sweaters.

Admission to the event is a cash donation to the YP/Rotary Playground Project which will be implemented in 2015. More details on the Community Impact project to be announced at the party. New members are welcome to sign up at the party. No RSVP's required.

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 information or to join, email us at bartonyp@gmail.com. And be sure to join the group on Facebook!



Want to Host a Young Professionals Event?

If your business is interested in hosting and/or sponsoring a Young Professionals event, the Steering Committee would love to hear from you. Submit your interest by emailing bartonyp@gmail.com. Sponsorships are available for mixers and family events.

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Highlighted Events in December

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

- 1... maurice's Holiday Coat/Toy Drive, 3511 10th Street
- 1... Prairie Godmothers Match & Mingle, Knights Hall, 723 Main, 5-7 p.m.
- 1... Prairie Winds Instrumental Concert, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7:30 p.m.
- 1... Santa's Workshop, Great Bend City Auditorium, Lakin & Williams, 6-8 p.m.
- 1... Holiday Grief Support Group, 3520 Lakin, 7 p.m.
- 2... GBFC "Give Where You Live", 1307 Williams, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 2-3... BCC Theatre Auditions for "Godspell" Musical, 245 NE 30 Rd, 5-7 p.m.
- 3... GBRC Santa's Elves for 5-12 Year Olds, Lincoln Elementary School, 3:30 p.m.
- 4... Chamber Coffee: Habitat for Humanity, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.
- 4... Ribbon Cutting & Open House: Bank of the West, 1200 Kansas, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 5... Heartland Spirituality Program "Spirit Life", 3600 Broadway, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 5... Movie with a Message, Heartland Center for Spirituality, 3600 Broadway, 6:15 p.m.
- 5... GBPL Adults Night Out Movie, 1409 Williams, 7 p.m.
- 5... Jingle Bell Swing Big Band Dance, American Legion, 1011 Kansas, 8-10:30 p.m.
- 6... Catholic Social Service 50th Anniversary Mass & Lunch, Dodge City, 11 a.m.
- 6... Light to Unite Run/Walk/Bike Event, Veterans Park, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 8... Holiday Variety Show, BCC Fine Arts Auditorium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7:30 p.m.
- 9... BCYP Ugly Sweater Christmas Party, Charlie's Place, 11th & Main, 6-8 p.m.
- 10... GBRC Santa's Elves for 5-12 Year Olds, Jefferson Elementary School, 3:30 p.m.
- 12... A440 Music Presents The Ash & Al Band, 1207 Main, 7-9 p.m.
- 12... Friendship Meals Christmas Dinner & Open House, 2005 Kansas, 12 p.m.
- 13... KWEC Holiday Open House, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 14... Ghosts of Christmas Past Open House, Historical Society, 85 S. Hwy 281, 1-4 p.m.
- 14... Shafer Gallery Open House, 245 NE 30 Rd, 1:30-5 p.m.
- 14... KWEC Christmas Jewelry Workshop, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 2-5 p.m.
- 14... GBHS Vespers Concert, 2027 Morton, 2 p.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for January Outlook Business Journal
- 18... Cheyenne Bottoms Christmas Bird Count, KWEC, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 18... GBRC Program "Easy Cooking – Seasonal Sweets", 1214 Stone, 7:30 p.m.
- 19... GBRC Christmas Dance, Knights of Columbus, 723 Main, 7-9 p.m.
- 20... BCC Beginners Photography Class, Workforce Center, 1025 Main, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 23... Shop Local Blitz, Chamber Office Open Late for Gift Certificates, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 24-25... Chamber Office Closed for Christmas
- 31-1... Chamber Office Closed for New Year's

Other Recurring Events:

- Shop Late in Great Bend** – Every Thursday Night until Christmas, 5-7 p.m.
- Barton County Commission Meetings** – Every Monday, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.
- Great Bend City Council Meetings** – 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo** – Every Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
- American Legion Dinners** – Every Wednesday & Friday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
- Santas Around the World & Visits with Santa** – 1223 Main, Thursdays & Fridays 4-6 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 1-6 p.m.
- Free Ice Skating** – Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main, Thursdays & Fridays 4-8 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 1-5 p.m.
- Christmas Craft Mall** – 3407 10th Street (former Blockbuster building), Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sundays 1-6 p.m.
- Holiday Trail of Lights** – Great Bend Parks, Daily after Dark
- National Quilt Exhibit** – Shafer Art Gallery, 245 NE 30 Rd, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 1-5 p.m.



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KWEC to Host Holiday Open House

Join the staff of the Kansas Wetlands Education Center in celebrating the Christmas season with a Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 13th. While the kids decorate gingerbread birdhouses and make bird feeder swags, adults can take advantage of specials in the gift shop, enter a contest for a \$50 gift certificate and pick up tips on winter bird feeding. Pianist Brenna Martin will perform holiday selections and Christmas cookies, breads and warm beverages will be served.



Find KWEC's Christmas goose and earn the opportunity to win a \$50 gift certificate to KWEC's gift store. He'll be hiding somewhere within the Center. Gift store shoppers may also purchase one item at 40 percent off, excluding consignment items.

Discover how best to provide winter bird feeding and watering from Rob Penner, The Nature Conservancy avian programs manager at Cheyenne Bottoms. Penner has intensively studied the feeding habits of birds, providing a smorgasbord for the birds at his Barton County home.

Preregistration is required for the gingerbread birdhouse activity, with a limited number of seats available. The registration deadline is Dec. 10. No registration is required for any other activities. To register and for more information call 877-243-9268 or visit wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu.

ARCH Program to Continue at St. Rose

There for a little while, St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center physicians didn't know if a popular primary-care program for military veterans would continue. But now they know ARCH has been given at least a two-year extension and encourage even more local and area vets to become involved. ARCH, which stands for Access Received Closer to Home, has been available at St. Rose for about 18 months. So far, approximately 100 vets participate.

James McReynolds, M.D., cares for many St. Rose ARCH patients and hopes the numbers continue to grow. His medical practice is at Great Bend Internists on St. Rose's first floor.

"I encourage veterans to chat with people at the VFW or American Legion," Dr. McReynolds suggested. "There are lots of people there with direct experience who can tell others about ARCH. The biggest advantage is that primary-care services are offered close to home. Long car rides, and the associated expense and stress are not necessary in many instances."

McReynolds also noted he has received nothing but positive feedback from veterans about ARCH. "Nobody complains of any downside," he commented. "It is very popular and I am pleased the program has been extended. All Americans owe it to people who served in our military to make their health care more, rather than less, accessible."

ARCH was set to expire in September but was extended in each of its five pilot sites. St. Rose participates through the Pratt pilot location. Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran, member of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Senate Appropriations committees, played an instrumental role in starting and extending ARCH. The 2-year extension is included in the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act that was signed into law in August.

For more information, visit www.stroseasc.org.

Saint Francis Seeks Foster Families

There are 173 children in foster care in Barton county. 32 additional homes are needed to keep these kids in their neighborhoods, community, and schools. Help kids in Barton county through Saint Francis Community Services. What can you do:

- Take the next step and become a foster parent with Saint Francis Community Services
- Share the word that foster homes are needed by inviting Saint Francis staff to speak at churches, clubs/organizations

Contact Marla Baumann 785-476-8501, marla.baumann@st-francis.org or John Young 620-615-1063, john.young@st-francis.org

Sunflower Bank Promotes Jordan Klima

Sunflower Bank has promoted Jordan Klima to Loan Operations Assistant. In this capacity, Klima will be making consumer loans and supporting commercial loan functions in the Great Bend and Ellinwood communities. Prior to the promotion, Klima was a Customer Service Representative.



"We're so lucky to have Jordan at Sunflower. He's incredibly bright and talented and ensures that everything we do is working towards a customer's financial goals," said Becca Maxwell, retail service manager of Great Bend and Ellinwood. "The new position will allow Jordan to really develop his leadership skills and make an impact on the people of our communities."

Klima is pursuing his bachelor's degree in finance at Fort Hays State University. While at Barton Community College, he competed for the Barton Forensics Team, served as a board member for the Community Service Student Organization and was the vice president for PTK.

Sunflower Bank is a \$1.7 billion family-owned community bank, offering personal checking and savings options, home loans, corporate and treasury management services, commercial lending and trust and wealth management services. Sunflower Bank maintains headquarters in Salina, Kansas, with other locations throughout Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri. For more information, please visit www.sunflowerbank.com.

Support the Great Bend Chamber by Placing Advertising - OBJ & Directory

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development goes above and beyond to help its members spread the word about their promotions and news announcements by providing a full color monthly newsletter (this *Outlook Business Journal*), a weekly email *Update* newsletter, and our interactive website. We also share members' Facebook posts when possible. All of these programs have costs associated with administering, and so we invite our valued members to also go above and beyond. Place tax deductible advertising in our monthly newsletter or in the printed directory to underwrite costs and help generate non-dues revenue to keep the Chamber thriving. Not sure what all the Chamber can do for you? Plan to attend our Member Services & Marketing Seminar on January 14th at 10 a.m. (An invite will be emailed out). Boost your sales by contacting Marketing Director Rachel Mawhirter, 620-792-2401 or marketing@greatbend.org.

Announcements from Sunflower Diversified Services

Sunflower Recycling Now Accepting Glass

Sunflower Diversified Recycling has accepted glass products for a number of years because it keeps them out of the landfill. But now, thanks to a new piece of equipment, Sunflower will have a profitable market for glass bottles and jars, said Jim Johnson, Sunflower Executive Director.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. The non-profit agency owns and operates the recycling center.

"We believe there will be a use for every bit of glass we recycle," Johnson said. "Combining colors of glass produces an attractive mix that can be used for landscaping in areas where you might typically use small rock.

The crushed glass will be available for sale to the public soon. The new glass crusher/pulverizer arrived recently at Sunflower Recycling's drop-off site, 5523 10th Street. The machine was paid for entirely through a grant from Barton County. The possibility of the county using crushed glass as a replacement for sand and expensive rock is being explored.



Sunflower EEC Welcomes Mayra Reyes

As Mayra Reyes pursued her education in early childhood development, she realized she not only wanted to help children, she wanted to assist their families too. And the best way to do that locally, she learned, was to work at Sunflower Diversified's Early Education Center (EEC). As a result, Reyes is the new early intervention specialist at the EEC, 1312 Patton, Great Bend.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays. Reyes, who was born and raised in Mexico, brings an extra dimension to her new job. She not only speaks fluent Spanish, she understands the culture in which it is spoken.

Reyes, like other EEC staff members, concentrates on helping children with speech and language, along with cognitive, fine-motor and gross-motor skills. In addition, social and emotional assistance is becoming increasingly important.

Reyes earned an associate's degree in early childhood at Barton Community College two years ago. She is currently working toward her bachelor's degree in early childhood unified at Fort Hays State University, with a minor in psychology.

First Ever Dialing for Dollars Deemed Huge Success

The first-ever Dialing for Dollars to benefit infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and delays resulted in an "overwhelming" show of support, said Connie Oetken, director of development at Sunflower Diversified Services. Its Invest in Kids Club specifically benefits children at the Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool.

"We hoped to raise about \$10,000 during Dialing for Dollars but we were just shy of \$33,000," Oetken said. "The children and families we serve will directly benefit from this overwhelming display of generosity." The total includes an anonymous donation of \$20,000. The Invest in Kids campaign began in March and is about \$13,100 short of its \$60,000 goal.

"So much research proves how quickly infants and toddlers develop when they have the right resources," Cathy Estes, Coordinator of Childrens Services, says. "If we don't provide these resources in the early years, we miss key opportunities for children to meet their potential."

The early ed center offers free screenings, evaluations and early intervention that entails specialists visiting children in their homes or other natural settings. These professionals include physical therapists, speech language pathologists, early childhood special education teachers and a bilingual early interventionist.

The preschool has three full-time teachers, one with a degree in social work. Another has a master's in early childhood special education, while the third has 15 years experience.

Save the Dates - 4 Corners Oktoberfest

Every year, four local businesses partner to host the 4 Corners Oktoberfest, a crowd favorite among Chamber After Hours. This event is always held on the first Tuesday of October. Future dates will be as follows:

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

To schedule a Chamber After Hours event at your business, contact Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Member Services, at 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.

Vines & Designs Launches Online Ordering System

Paula Storm has owned and operated a floral business for more than 15. However, Vines & Designs is excited to now be offering online ordering through their website at www.vinesanddesignsks.com. The mobile and tablet friendly website allows customers to shop at their convenience by occasion, price range, color, etc and check out through a secure payment gateway.

While they are now catering to the online-based consumer, they still provide excellent customer service from their retail location at 3414 Broadway Avenue in Great Bend. Call-in orders and wedding planning services are available, as well as centerpieces, plants, special event boutonnieres and corsages, custom wreaths, and more. The ever-popular 24-hour vending machine allows you to give flowers at all hours of the day and night, or to plan ahead for an early morning surprise.

Paula and her expert staff love helping customers create the perfect gift or arrangement for all of your floral needs. Gifts and flowers for birthdays, anniversary gifts, get well, new baby and sympathy needs are just a few of the things they can do. You name it, they can create it!

Vines & Designs also carries candles, custom scented soy wax melts, gift baskets, candy bouquets, and more. As always, free delivery in Great Bend or \$5 delivery outside City limits. For more information or to place an order, visit them online at www.vinesanddesignsks.com or call 620-793-3122. And be sure to like them on Facebook and Pinterest!



Upcoming Programs at Heartland Farm

POTTERY STUDIO: For interested students as well as experienced potters, the Heartland Farm Pottery Studio will be available for instruction, wheel and hand-building work, glazing and firing on a monthly basis. Hours will be between 4-8 PM the 3rd Thursday and 8 AM-1 PM on the following Saturday. Call for more information at 620-923-4585.

WINTER RETREAT: Need some time away? Come to Heartland Farm for a weekend or a couple of weekdays. Take advantage of quiet time in our guest house or one of our hermitages. Choose a therapeutic massage, guided retreat input, spiritual direction or a guided labyrinth walk. Enjoy nutritious meals as well. To check for availability of dates call 620-923-4585.

FIBERSPACE 2015: This program is for all levels—beginners to advanced—who want to learn, renew or develop fiber arts skills. This year we will offer all the fiber skills at both sessions: knitting and crocheting, spinning and weaving. You choose the one you want. You may come for one or both sessions. Dates are January 23-24 and February 6-7. Deadline to register for January session is January 16th. Call 620-923-4585.

Historical Society Earns Excellence Award

The Barton County Historical Society is honored to be the recipient of the 2014 Kansas Museum Association Award of Excellence for our project, "South Hoisington: Stories from the Other Side of the Tracks", which was partially supported by a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council. Executive Director Beverly Komarek and volunteer interviewer Veronica Coons will accept the award at the annual KMA Conference in Salina.

"South Hoisington: Stories from the Other Side of the Tracks" explores life in a community segregated by place of employment and by the conventions of the day in Kansas, our "free" state. The Barton County Historical Society has been recording memories, recollections, and experiences about people living and working in and around South Hoisington and highlights the unique as well as the everyday - including church, neighborhood and family life - in a very, very marginal place. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, life slowly began to change in segregated communities. By combining human stories with the information from railroad records, newspapers, publications, and census records, the project hopes to build an awareness of and appreciation for what it was like to live in one of these communities, when they existed at their peak in a segregated Kansas with a unique railroad accent.

Project team members included Beverly Komarek, Karen Neuforth, Veronica Coons, Tracy Aris, Elisha Beck and Deedra Gibbons. Oral history participants included Reada Ann (Richards) Green, Margaret Ann (Mitchell) Thompson, Dorla (Green) Hudson, Jonathan Johnson, Edna Jones, Phil and Celia (Torrez) Webb, Don Boise, and Harold Larson. Read more on the Community News page at www.greatbend.org.

SeaPort Airlines Upgrades Planes & Modifies Air Service Schedule

SeaPort Airlines announced last month that they will launch an alternate service pattern for air service from Great Bend, Kansas. Non-stop service to Kansas City International Airport will replace the scheduled service to Wichita Mid-Continent Airport. This will include two daily round trip flights Monday through Friday and one round trip flight both Saturday and Sunday.



Kansas City International Airport currently offers flights to 43 nonstop destinations operated by 11 airlines. The new nonstop service to Kansas City International will also connect with Alaska Airlines flights out of Kansas City to Seattle and beyond, which can be booked as a single itinerary under the SeaPort Airlines interline and e-ticketing agreement with Alaska Airlines by December 1st.

Also announced last month was the plan to take delivery of new Cessna Caravans before the end of the year. "These brand new aircraft demonstrate SeaPort's commitment to, and our investment in, creation of a next-generation regional airline that ensures smaller cities maintain connectivity with the national air transportation system and global economy, as well as restore service on local commuter routes with proven demand that have been abandoned by large carriers," said Rob McKinney, SeaPort's Chief Executive Officer.

The Cessna Caravan EX versions being delivered to SeaPort are equipped with a larger PT-6 turboprop engine that provides increased payload capability, faster rate of climb, and higher cruise speeds. They also include TKS anti-ice/de-ice systems preventing precipitation build up and enhancing safety and operational reliability. The aircraft are also equipped with state-of-the-art Garmin avionics equipment. These capabilities will result in higher flight completion rates, even during the most challenging weather conditions, as well as enhanced levels of safety and comfort.

About SeaPort Airlines

Portland, Oregon-based SeaPort Airlines, Inc. operates daily scheduled flights in Alaska, Arkansas, California, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon, Tennessee, and Texas. SeaPort Airlines reservations can be made by calling 888-573-2767, at www.SeaPortAirlines.com, or through all major GDSs. The company currently has an interline ticketing and baggage agreement with Alaska Airlines and is working to establish similar agreements with other US and international carriers. You can follow SeaPort on Facebook and Twitter.



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Heartland Cancer Center Announces Plans for Facility Expansion & Equipment Upgrades

It is not just the physical layout of the Heartland Cancer Center (HCC) that will change as the facility grows by 10,000 square feet. Plans also call for new equipment that will allow even more precise radiation treatments at the Great Bend center. A new repositioning system by Varian Medical Systems, coupled with portal imaging capabilities will allow real-time images of treatment fields, said Becky Troyer, HCC director.

"This allows for more precise treatment delivery," Troyer said. "It also adds to our culture of safety since all imaging will be digital. There will be no need for our radiation therapists to leave the immediate area to have films checked by the oncologist.

"All our physicians and staff will have immediate access to the localized images as soon as they are taken," she elaborated. "A patient's positioning can be checked from any of Central Care Cancer Center's locations."

Central Care provides the oncologists, staff and equipment to HCC, 204 Cleveland. It is based in Salina and has 13 locations throughout Kansas and western Missouri. "All of us are excited about this new repositioning system," Troyer commented. "Not only is this imaging system more precise, the treatments can be done faster in a safer environment for patients and staff."

Jason Tracy, Central Care's medical physicist, played an instrumental role in choosing the new equipment that will be delivered in the near future. A medical physicist is in charge of calibrating radiation equipment and quality assurance for each patient's treatment plan. The Central Care radiation oncologists that treat Great Bend-area patients are Claudia Perez-Tamayo, M.D., and Tom Hegarty, M.D. Their medical oncology colleagues are Mark Fesen, M.D., and Greg Nanney, M.D. Construction on the HCC expansion will begin soon.

An Update from the Great Bend Pilot Club

The Pilot club of Great Bend helped guide the Great Bend USD 428 fifth grade students in their tour of the Body Venture educational experience. Pilot International has a focus on brain health and proper nutrition and being physically active, especially at a young age, leads to better overall health including brain health.

Body Venture is an exciting tour of the human body featuring engaging, experiential educational activities. It is designed for students through fifth grade, guiding them on a larger-than-life human body display with entertaining, hands-on activities. The goal is to teach students the importance of making healthy food choices and being physically active, which are important life skills that help children grow and prevent them from developing health problems, such as obesity, later in life.

Local Retail Store, A Full House, Celebrates New Owner & New Name

Hometown Brand Center now features a new name and a new owner. Gloria Homeier recently purchased the local store from her parents, who operated the Great Bend and Russell locations for over 30 years. The retail home furnishings store is now called "A Full House." Homeier also owns stores in Beloit, Pratt, Hays, Smith Center, Clay Center, and Manhattan, along with two stores in Lexington and McCook, Nebraska.

"I worked for the federal government for a lot of years, but my dad encouraged me to start a retail and rent-to-own location in Beloit when he saw an opportunity there," Homeier says. "That one took off, so we've expanded to many other communities offering exceptional service and the guaranteed lowest prices."

A Full House is a one-stop-shop for all things home. With everything from beds and furniture to appliances and electronics, customers enjoy the convenience and reliability of working with one business to furnish their entire home. "We will match the lowest prices of any store, including the big box stores. We also offer free delivery and setup for all our customers," Homeier says. "We hope to meet or exceed your expectations every time you do business with us. We want to make it easy to shop local."

Because Homeier knows that not everyone can pay cash for the large ticket items, A Full House also offers rent-to-own and 120 days same as cash. "We are a family owned company now in its third generation because my son works for us too," Homeier says. "We have a growing presence on Facebook, and can transport items from one store to another if customers see something they like at another location."

A Full House is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Open 9-6 M-f and 9-5 Saturdays. For more information, stop by the store at 4908 10th Street, call 620-792-7368, or like their page on Facebook to keep up with sales and special offers!



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Bank of the West Welcomes Pecora Ribbon Cutting & Open House Dec. 4

Join us on Thursday, December 4th for a Ribbon Cutting & Open House to celebrate and welcome the new Branch Manager & Vice President of Bank of the West, January Pecora! The Open House will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ribbon Cutting will be held at 11 a.m. with BBQ Lunch being served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Door prizes will be given away at 12 p.m.



Loren Unruh Named Hotelier of the Year

The Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association (KRHA) recently hosted their annual Evening of Hospitality in Wichita. The highlight of the evening was the "Star of the Industry" award, which celebrates the recipient's accomplishments and dedication to the industry. Loren Unruh was named the 2014 Hotelier of the year. Unruh started his career in 1970 in the restaurant industry with Black Angus Steak Ranch (now Perkins Family Restaurant). In 1977, he opened the Best Western Angus Inn, which he expanded in 1980. Loren has served on the KRHA Board of Directors and is a past president of the Kansas Lodging Association. He has also served on the national Best Western Board of Directors and is a past Chairman of that board. Additionally, Unruh is the Chairman of the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau and has been a constant supporter of the Great Bend community through his involvement in the Chamber of Commerce, Barton County Community College, along with various organizations and advisory boards. "I am very surprised and extremely honored to receive this award", said Unruh. "Receiving this award in the State of Kansas is very prestigious. After all my years in the industry it is truly a delight to be recognized in this fashion."



The Beauty Bar Celebrates Recent Investment in the Local Chamber

Lexie Schneider has been growing her book of clients in Great Bend for over five years. Last April, she took a leap of faith and opened her own salon known as The Beauty Bar, located at 1908 12th Street in Great Bend. Soon after, she recruited Kelsey Martin and Kaylee Dreiling to join her. Each brings different skills to the table, but the three combined create one of the most professional, full-service beauty teams in the area.

"We are a full service hair salon, offering cuts and color treatments, perms, relaxers, and formal styling," Schneider says. "We also offer manicures and pedicures with Shellac certified professional applications, lash extensions, facials, and a full line of retail products and accessories."

When Schneider took over the building, she and her husband Derek spent lots of hours transforming the salon by installing new floors and painting each of the rooms. The Beauty Bar now features a modern style with a relaxing atmosphere.

"We want to provide only the best for our customers. From the free coffee when they stop in to the online scheduling, we want their experience to be convenient and memorable," Schneider says. "Anyone can make an appointment online from our Facebook page or at Schedulicity.com."

Just in time for the holidays, The Beauty Bar is promoting their gift certificates and stocking stuffers available by stopping in during normal business hours. The Beauty Bar is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with evening and weekend appointments available. For more information or to book an appointment, call 620-796-2001 or find them on Schedulicity.com.



Don't Forget About Chamber Gift Certificates An Easy, Fast, Convenient Way to Shop Local

Chamber gift certificates ensure that your employee and client end-of-year gifts are spent locally at one of the over 140 businesses that currently participate in this unique program. Chamber gift certificates are available in any increment over \$5 and don't expire for 5 years. And if you're really in a rush, we can have them ready for you when you stop in. For those busy, last-minute shoppers, the Chamber Office will be open late on Tuesday, December 23rd until 7 p.m. To place an order before you stop by, call 620-792-2401 or email gbcc@greatbend.org. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is located at 1125 Williams in Great Bend.



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Keating & Associates, Dee Bleeker Open Financial Office in Great Bend

Financial advisors Patrick Keating and Dee Bleeker are pleased to announce the ribbon cutting of the newest branch of Keating & Associates, Inc. in Great Bend, Kansas. In joining Keating & Associates, Dee continues her long relationship with Raymond James Financial Services. She is able to offer the residents of Great Bend and Western Kansas all of the services that Keating & Associates has to offer.

The team at Keating & Associates has a vast and active history of financial planning and wealth management. Raymond James Financial Services recently recognized Keating & Associates as a Member of the 2015 Directors Council* as well as being ranked sixth nationally in production within the Raymond James Financial Institutions Division with over \$550,000,000 in assets under management as of November 1, 2014. (*Membership is based on prior fiscal year production. Re-qualification is required annually.)

Keating & Associates has over 30 years of experience in the insurance industry working with life, disability, critical illness, and supplemental insurance policies. As of November 1, 2014, Keating & Associates has over \$1 billion dollars in life insurance in force with a variety of insurance companies including Assurity, Lincoln Financial, Pacific Life, and others. In addition, they offer entrepreneurial coaching and The Medicare Coach™ program for seniors. These services are not provided by Raymond James.

Keating & Associates offers a variety of solutions for both large and small businesses. These include Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plans, Buy/Sell agreements, Key Employee plans, and business related life and disability insurance options. Building on 30 years of experience in employee benefits, the team at Keating & Associates currently administers over 220 cafeteria plans and 180 retirement plans (over \$182 million dollars under management as of November 1, 2014) throughout the nation. Group insurance options are also available including life, health, dental, vision, disability, and supplemental insurance options.

Keating & Associates is an independent firm. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. (Member FINRA/SIPC). Dee Bleeker is located at 1920 Main Street, Great Bend, KS 67530 and can be reached at (620) 603-9556.



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 Campaign Update

The Sidewinders MC Casino Night raised \$5,000 on November 8th for United Way of Central Kansas, and we can not thank the group enough for their generosity to UWCK. The night was a huge success and we could have not done without the donations given by the community and the UWCK agencies. Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of November in 2015 - it is an event you won't want to miss!

United Way's First Annual National Philanthropy Day "Dress the Town" jeans day on Wednesday November 19th, created by staff member Charell Owings, engaged 45 businesses and over 1,800 individuals. Thanks to Sally Mauler and the Buckle for their donation of a pair of jeans, which will be drawn from the participating donors on December 4th. Winner will be announced on our website, uwck.org, and our Facebook page.

UWCK is over 60% of its goal, special thanks to Ron Smith, Edward Neimnich, Scott Reddig, Frank Kelly, and David Thill for taking on the oilfield campaign. With the help of the community and the generous donations from the oilfield and the help of Eagle Radio radiothon and Scott Donovan, their division has raised over \$20,000 so far for United Way of Central Kansas.

Mark your calendars! Giving Tuesday is December 2nd and United Way of Central Kansas along with the Golden Belt Community Foundation is promoting their agencies with an alliance with local banks with our "Bank on your Community Campaign." You can drop off your contribution to United Way of Central Kansas on December 1st and December 2nd at these participating banks:

American State Bank, Bank of the West, Central National Bank, Community Bank of the Midwest, Credit Union of America, Farmers Bank and Trust, First Kansas Bank, Landmark National Bank, and Sunflower Bank.

As you can tell, United Way is making a difference with your help. Together we can pay it forward. Blessings for a happy and safe holiday.

Julie Smith, Executive Director
United Way of Central Kansas

Check out what is happening at United Way on our Facebook page or online at www.uwck.org.

WELCOME to our NEWEST Chamber Members!

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Erica Stos

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Category: Clothing – Retail

Overland Property Group

Matt Gillam

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Leawood, KS 66224

913-396-6310

Category: Real Estate - Rental



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December 4, 2014

Habitat for Humanity • Chamber Office, 1125 Williams

Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that builds or rehabilitates homes so they are safe, decent, affordable housing for low income families in the Barton County area. These homes are purchased through zero-interest mortgages, so their payments can be used to fund future projects.

www.facebook.com/BartonCountyHabitat

December 11, 2014

First Presbyterian Church • 2400 Washington

Called by God and guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of the First Presbyterian Church, Great Bend, Kansas, is to worship God, grow in our knowledge of God's love, reach out to make new disciples, and commit our lives to Jesus Christ, our Lord & Savior. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.fpcgb.org

December 18, 2014

Community Bank of the Midwest • 2220 Broadway

Community Bank is the only locally-owned bank in Great Bend, providing checking, savings, lending, and online banking services. Holiday entertainment will be provided by GBHS Madrigal Singers.

December 25, 2014

No Coffee • Merry Christmas!

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to wish all of our members a very safe and joyous Christmas! Our office will be closed December 24-25, 2014.

January 1, 2015

No Coffee • Happy New Year!

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to wish all of our members a very safe and prosperous New Year! Our office will be closed December 31, 2014 & January 1, 2015.

January 8, 2015

Thrivent Financial Services • Chamber Office, 1125 Williams

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| Employment – Barton County | September 13 | September 14 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Labor Force | NA | 17,866 |
| Employment | NA | 17,346 |
| Unemployment | NA | 520 |
| Unemployment Rate | NA | 2.9% |
| KS Unemployment Rate | NA | 4.8% |

| City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report | September 13 | September 14 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00% | \$434,927 | \$452,249 |
| Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75% | \$233,353 | \$235,456 |

| Building Permits | September 13 | September 14 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Commercial – GB | 5 | 5 |
| Residential - GB | 26 | 29 |

Sources:

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

