

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JULY 2023  
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GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal

1921



YEARS

2021

## SOCIAL MEDIA MASTER SERIES



### INFORMATION:

#### DATES:

JULY 11TH, AUGUST 29TH, SEPTEMBER 19TH

#### LOCATION:

THE FRONT DOOR (1615 10TH ST.)

#### TIME:

10AM-12PM

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Understanding social media best practices and algorithms have become top of mind for anyone doing business in 2023. That's why the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with Marketing Maven Consulting, Barton Community College, and Eagle Radio for our Level-Up Social Media Master Series, a 3-part comprehensive workshop designed to equip marketing professionals and enthusiasts with cutting-edge strategies and insights for leveraging the power of Facebook and Instagram. This series promises to provide attendees with invaluable knowledge and techniques to enhance their digital marketing efforts. Each session will offer an immersive and interactive learning experience, featuring engaging hands-on demonstrations, comprehensive guides and handouts.

### July 11th -

Session 1: "Best Practices for Facebook & Instagram Marketing."

This foundational session aims to help participants establish consistency in branding and maximize their online visibility. Whether attendees are beginner marketers or individuals seeking a refresher on the fundamentals, this session will provide invaluable insights to elevate their social media presence.

### August 29th & September 19th -

Sessions 2 & 3: "Facebook & Instagram Master Series" (2 Parts)

These in-depth sessions will offer a deep dive into content creation, brand management, and advanced strategies for paid advertising on Facebook and Instagram. Aimed at experienced marketers aiming to enhance their marketing game or stay updated with the latest tools and features introduced in the last six months, these sessions are guaranteed to provide a competitive edge in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Don't miss out on this unparalleled opportunity to gain insider knowledge, network with like-minded professionals, and take your marketing prowess to new heights. Secure your spot in the Level-Up Social Media Master Series today and embark on a transformative journey towards digital marketing excellence. Space is limited. Call the Chamber to reserve your spot today. Registration is \$150 for Members and \$200 for Non-Members and includes all handouts, guides, refreshments, and more!



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



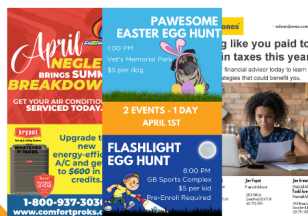
### OTHER TOPICS INCLUDE:

- USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO RECRUIT & HIRE
- WHEN TO USE FACEBOOK GROUPS & EVENTS
- LEVERAGING VIDEO CONTENT
- GROWING AUDIENCES/INCENTIVIZING AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT
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**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Join Heartland Farm This Summer for a Variety of Unique Events!

First, visit the Farm for Under the Stars: a cookout, concert, and stargazing event the evening of August 4th. Come out for food, music, and viewing the Perseid meteor shower in the Farm's dark skies. This special event will feature Still on the Hill, a national and international touring duet out of Arkansas focused on storytelling and preserving the culture of the Ozarks. Their music is a blend of bluegrass, folk, classical, and mountain music that Julie Koehler of Bluegrass Now Magazine calls a "yet-to-be-named hybrid music that simply compels people to stop and listen, to pause in their hectic lives and pay attention to something they've never heard before. It's magic, and there's simply not enough magic in the world today." Register early. Space is limited. For more information, see our Facebook page or visit heartlandfarm-ks.org/under-the-stars.

Next, learn all about herbs with Sr. Imelda in her Culinary & Medicinal Herbs workshop on Saturday, August 12th. Heartland Farm has a plethora of herbs on its 80-acre farmstead. Learn about these herbs both for use in food and as helpful plants! To register or learn more, visit Heartland Farm on Facebook or go to heartlandfarm-ks.org/herbs-workshop.

Finally, save the date for one of Heartland Farm's signature events! The Farm to Table Fundraising Dinner will take place the evening of Saturday, September 16th. This year's dinner will be a Mexican Fiesta utilizing the Farm's fresh produce and homemade by the Farm's good friends Stephannie and Vaughn Goerl. Details coming soon to the Farm's Facebook page or at <https://heartlandfarm-ks.org/farm-to-table-dinner-2023>. Register early. Only 50 spots available!

Can't attend? Schedule a tour! Call 620-923-4585 or email [hfarm@gbta.net](mailto:hfarm@gbta.net).

## Upcoming Events



**Under the Stars:**  
A concert, cookout, and  
stargazing event  
with Still on the Hill  
Heartland Farm  
Friday, August 4  
Registration open!



**Culinary & Medicinal  
Herbs Workshop**  
with Sr. Imelda  
Heartland Farm  
Saturday, August 12  
9-11 a.m.  
Registration open!



**Farm to Table Dinner**  
Heartland Farm  
September 16  
Registration open soon!



For more information as dates get closer, see our Facebook page, @HeartlandFarmKS, or our website, [www.heartlandfarm-ks.org](http://www.heartlandfarm-ks.org).



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[heartlandfarm-ks.org](http://heartlandfarm-ks.org)



## Committed to Caring for the Great Bend Community

Providing the Great Bend community greater access to the resources of the only academic health system in Kansas. Together, we are committed to ensuring the continued well-being of this community, close to home.

[kansashealthsystem.com/greatbend](http://kansashealthsystem.com/greatbend)

## Tickets On Sale Now for UWCK Kickoff Event

Join the United Way of Central Kansas (UWCK) for their annual Kickoff event on August 5, 2023, at the Columbus Club. The night promises to be an exciting and unforgettable experience that you won't want to miss.

The event will start at 5:00 pm and will feature the Colorado Keys, who will be back with their Dueling Pianos, playing the songs you want to hear. You'll also get to indulge in delicious dinner options from Ellinwood Packing Plant, such as burgers and brats cooked up by the Knights of Columbus, along with scalloped potatoes, baked beans, and dessert.

As part of the event, you'll have the chance to participate in a 50/50 raffle and bid on silent auction items. For those looking to make a big splash, there will also be limited live auction items up for bid where you can go home with something great.

But, that's not all! By attending the Kickoff event, you'll be supporting numerous non-profit organizations in Barton and Pawnee Counties that work in fields such as health, education, and financial stability. UWCK spearheads community impact programs such as Reality U, Box of Love, Laundry Love, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library—all aimed at creating a better community for everyone.

So, Huddle Up with UWCK this year and be part of something great. Tickets are now on sale, and you don't want to miss out on this fantastic event. It's a chance to have fun with friends, indulge in delicious food, and support a great cause, all in one night. So, mark your calendars for August 5, 2023, and grab your tickets now!





## Ribbon Cuttings!



### Great Bend Zoological Society

Congratulations to Great Bend Zoological Society for unveiling their new playground and swingset!

The Great Bend Zoological Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the renowned Great Bend Zoo, celebrated a significant milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on June 8th. Joined by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, the event marked the unveiling of an exciting addition to the zoo—a new, more accessible playground and swingset for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

Under the leadership of Aaron Emerson, the Board President of the Great Bend Zoological Society, this momentous occasion showcased the commitment and collaborative efforts to enhance the visitor experience at the Great Bend Zoo. With the support of the local community, the Great Bend Zoological Society has diligently worked to make the zoo a destination that fosters education, conservation, and recreation.

As a nonprofit organization, the Great Bend Zoological Society serves as the primary advocate for the Great Bend Zoo, which has been a beloved institution for over 70 years. The zoo attracts over 40,000 visitors annually, offering an immersive experience

that connects people with diverse animal species from around the world.

With no employees but a dedicated team of eight board members and a membership base of 150 individuals, the Great Bend Zoological Society operates with the primary goal of supporting and promoting the growth of the Great Bend Zoo. By providing funding, resources, and volunteer support, the society enables the zoo to continue providing a remarkable and educational experience to visitors of all ages.

In addition to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Great Bend Zoological Society encourages the public to visit their official website, [www.gbzoosociety.org](http://www.gbzoosociety.org), to learn more about their initiatives, upcoming events, and ways to support the Great Bend Zoo. Individuals interested in contacting the Great Bend Zoological Society can do so by sending an email to [gbzoosociety@gmail.com](mailto:gbzoosociety@gmail.com) or visiting their website for more information.

For more information about the Great Bend Zoological Society and the Great Bend Zoo, please visit [www.gbzoosociety.org](http://www.gbzoosociety.org).



### 15 Years of Maurices

Congratulations to Maurices for celebrating 15 years at their current location! On June 14th, Maurices, a leading women's fashion brand, celebrated 15 years of success and continued growth at their current location on 10th St. Maurices. Founded on the

principle of authenticity, Maurices has fostered an exceptional culture that values individuality and diversity. With a mission to empower women to be themselves, the company has created an inviting, caring, and enjoyable environment...

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## Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

## GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## People on the Move!

### CKCA Introduces Sherry Pruter as Principal

Central Kansas Christian Academy (CKCA), a K-8th grade Christian school in Great Bend, is pleased to announce the hiring of a new school Principal and School Administrator, Sherry Pruter. "I am excited to work with a Christian staff and help our students to understand not only the importance of a good education, but even more important are the values and Christian principles that they learn here at CKCA," said Pruter. "My long-range vision is to have CKCA accredited as a K-12 building."

"My vision for CKCA is to continue to lead a Christ-centered school that not only teaches a rigorous academic curriculum, but provides a Biblical worldview in every subject and area of instruction. With my school counseling background, I would also like to incorporate more social, emotional and character development lessons," said Pruter. "This would allow students who complete the CKCA curriculum to be academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally equipped to transfer and successfully transition to whatever high school they choose to attend."

Anyone interested in learning more about CKCA or enrolling their child (K-8) for the 2023/2024 school year can visit [www.ckcacademy.com](http://www.ckcacademy.com) to learn more, or they may contact the school office weekdays when school is in session: 620-792-3477 or [office@ckcacademy.com](mailto:office@ckcacademy.com). During the summer, callers may leave a message and their call will be returned. CKCA will host their annual come-and-go Enrollment Day on August 3rd. Central Kansas Christian Academy also has a Facebook page for followers to keep up with school news and events.



### Shelly Peacock Returns to Insurance Planning, Inc.

Shelly Peacock, the former owner of TCI Answering Service, has joined Insurance Planning, Inc. as the new Commercial Lines Account Executive. She will be based at the Great Bend office located at 1901 12th St. In her new role, Shelly will be responsible for servicing all commercial line customers. This is not Shelly's first experience with Insurance Planning, Inc., as she previously worked there as a commercial lines CSR from 2001 to 2017. With over 20 years of experience in customer service and sales industries, Shelly brings valuable expertise to her new position. She will officially begin her role on July 10th. If you have any commercial insurance needs, please reach out to Shelly at 620-792-1297 or [peacsh@insurance-planning.com](mailto:peacsh@insurance-planning.com).



### Marketing Maven Welcomes Ashlie Thomas as Communications & Projects Assistant

We are thrilled to announce the addition of a new employee on the Marketing Maven team! Ashlie Thomas, a Kansas native, started with us this week as a Communications and Project Assistant. As our client base, our services, and our project list continues to grow, we realized the need for another staff person who can handle the administrative, research, and reporting functions that our clients depend on. Ashlie is organized, efficient, and detail-oriented and we are confident she'll be a huge asset to our team and to the companies we work with. Thomas grew up and graduated from Ellinwood, Kansas in 2011 before graduating from Barton Community College in 2013 with an Associate's in Applied Science in Business Management and Leadership. "In my short 30 years of life, I already have over a decade worth of experience in the field of business. I am very excited to expand my knowledge and skillset with the Marketing Maven team and transition into a creative roll," Thomas says.

Thomas will be handling our team's administrative tasks, metrics reporting, writing assignments, and other special projects. She will also assist with photography and photo editing, social media, and other marketing functions. Outside of work, Ashlie stays active volunteering for Central Kansas Christian Academy, coaching CKCA's basketball teams, serving at First Southern Baptist Church, and attending her children's sports and activities. She also enjoys going to the lake, spending time with family, and tackling lots of home improvement projects. Ashlie lives in Great Bend, Kansas with her husband, Ethan, and two children, Aiden and Oaklyn. She will be officing with Rachel in our company headquarters.





# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JULY

- 1... Fireworks for Less Live Remote, 2100 Main St., 5-7pm
- 1... T&L Fireworks Live Remote, North Main, Noon-3pm
- 1... Bat Cats Vs. Colorado Springs, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 1... Swingin' 4th of July KS All Star Big Band, Jack Kilby Square, 8pm
- 2... Bat Cats All Star Game, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 2... T&L Fireworks Live Remote, North Main, 1-4pm
- 3... T&L Fireworks Live Remote, North Main, Noon-3pm
- 3... Bat Cats Vs. Dodge City A's, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 3... Hamburger Night, American Legion, 1011 Kansas, 5:30-7:30pm
- 3... City of Great Bend Firework Display, Expo Complex, Show Begins 9:45pm
- 4... Fireworks for Less Live Remote, 2100 Main St., 10am-Noon
- 5... Bat Cats Vs. Haysville Aviators, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 6... Chamber Coffee & Business Appreciation Breakfast, Expo II, Breakfast 7:30am, Program 8:30am**
- 6... City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15pm
- 10... Bat Cats Vs. Hutch Monarchs, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 11... County Commission Meeting, Courthouse RM 101, 9am
- 11... Advancing Barton County Childcare Daycare Center Groundbreaking, Farmer's Plaza (corner of 10th St. & K-96), 9am
- 11... Level-Up Social Media Master Series, The Front Door, 10:30am**
- 11... Marketing Maven Ribbon Cutting & Open House, 3108 10th St., 11:30am-1:30pm**
- 13...Chamber Coffee: Arby's, 3413 10th St., Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**
- 13... Bat Cats Vs. Newton, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 13... City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15pm
- 14...VFW Post 3111 Karaoke Night, 504 Washington, 9pm
- 15... United Way's Laundry Love, 924 Jefferson, 10am-2pm
- 17... Bat Cats Vs. Derby, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 20... Chamber Coffee: Nex-Tech, 2827 10th St., Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**
- 20... Chamber Night at the Bat Cats! Al Burns Field, 7pm**
- 20... City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15pm
- 22... Hard Rock 5K Fun Run, Pawnee Rock, 7:30am
- 22... United Way Stuff the Bus, Wal-Mart & Dillons, 10am-2pm
- 24... Lifeline Screening, First Presbyterian Church, 9am-4pm
- 24... Bat Cats Vs. Kansas Cannons, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 26... Bat Cats Vs. Liberal, Al Burns Memorial Field, 7pm
- 27... Chamber Coffee: BCC Foundation, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th St., Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am**
- 27... City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15pm
- 28... Mike Boys Memorial Golf Tournament, Lake Barton, 9am
- 28...American Legion Fried Chicken Friday, American Legion Argonne Post 180 (1011 Kansas), 5:30pm
- 28...Military and First Responders Night Out, Dropping 22 (916 Williams St.), 6pm

## Recurring Events:

Fireworks for Less 2023 Season, June 27th – July 4th, 2100 Main St.  
 T&L Fireworks 2023 Season, June 27th – July 4th, North Main and 10th St. Locations  
 Barton County Fair, July 5th – July 9th, Expo Complex  
 Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 pm  
 IN JULY ONLY: Barton County Commission Meetings, Tuesdays, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 101, 9am.

## GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & USD 428 host 8th Annual Business Showcase

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with USD 428, will host the 8th Annual Great Bend Business Showcase. This teacher appreciation event will take place Thursday, August 17th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Panther Activity Center (PAC) at Great Bend High School and will be open to 700+ educators and staff. This exhibit opportunity is available to members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, as well as non-members. Registration is \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for non-members. Registration will reserve exhibit space, with one six-foot table and two chairs. As the presenting sponsor, Credit Union of America invites other businesses to join them in welcoming the heroes of the education system back to school. Credit Union of America began as a teacher-owned financial institution and is excited to award two local teachers with the "Teach & Grow" Award during the unique event. The Business Showcase delivers up an exciting opportunity to businesses allowing them to showcase their products and services to the 700+ employees of the school district while expressing appreciation for the dedication shown by the teachers and the staff as they kick off the school year. The deadline for booth reservations is August 5th at 5 p.m. Don't delay in registering as space is limited. For more information: [www.greatbend.org/eventregistration](http://www.greatbend.org/eventregistration) or contact the Chamber office at 620-792-2401.



## Barton Community College and Medicalodges announce new apprenticeship academy

Barton Community College has partnered with Medicalodges, Inc. to offer a new apprenticeship program blending classroom instruction with paid on-the-job training. Medicalodges Academy: Pathway to Learning and Earning will allow students to train in areas such as Registered Nursing (RN), Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN), Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), and Dietary Manager.

Barton Vice President of Instruction Elaine Simmons, said Barton has served area businesses and local industries for years to support workforce development. With the addition of registered apprenticeship programs in the area, the College can extend additional support through on-the-job training, related technical instruction, and industry-recognized credentials. "The College is offering its support to organizations seeking to use apprenticeships as a tool for recruiting and retaining employees," she said. "In addition to technical training, apprenticeships can also offer mentorships and wage progression to support employees."

Medicalodges was chosen as the first partnership to launch the academy because of its commitment to offering the community an opportunity to learn while they earn. Medicalodges Executive Vice President, Shannon Lagers said that they are not only committed to providing quality healthcare but also career and advancement opportunities to their employees and those that live in their communities. "We know the quality of the services we provide is dependent upon a sufficient and skilled workforce," she said. "Medicalodges Academy: Learn while you Earn is an avenue to develop that workforce, and we are excited to collaborate with Barton in offering this workforce opportunity."

Great Bend Economic Development President Sara Arnberger said apprenticeships are integral to growing the workforce for the future. They combine mentorship, milestone pay increases, and further the community culture of a company. "We're so thrilled to see Barton Community College help to facilitate these programs within our area businesses and are equally as thrilled to celebrate Medicalodges and the launch of their new program," she said. "By forming this apprenticeship collaboration, we are effectively enhancing the workforce of tomorrow, and Great Bend Economic Development is happy to support and champion these efforts."

According to the 2021 Kansas Wage Survey, employment in fields like nursing and dietary management is expected to grow by five to seven percent by 2030. Medicalodges, Inc. is a 100 percent employee-owned Kansas-based company with over 1,600 employees and 30 locations across Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. They provide a continuum of care, primarily in rural communities, for older adults and those living with developmental disabilities.



## Golden Belt Leadership Empower Emerging Leaders in the Community

Kimberly Becker, CEO/Founder of Move Your Mountain Coaching/Consulting, and the Golden Belt Community Foundation have successfully concluded another enriching 7-week session of their Goldenbelt Leadership classes. The course, which took place every Wednesday from 8 am to 12 pm, delved deeply into the various competencies of the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC).

This hybrid class went beyond the KLC competencies by incorporating coaching techniques to help participants personalize the skills they acquired and apply them to both their personal and professional lives. Each individual brought their unique adaptive challenge to the table, and through the guidance of Kimberly Becker and the collaborative atmosphere of the class, participants left the final session feeling confident, empowered, and ready to embrace progress. Among the accomplished individuals who joined the class were Natasha Carver, Jenny Wolff, Aimee Norris, Cade Burris, Kelly Bachar, Maria Barragan, Kim Clarke, Sarah Stoelting, and Edith Solorzano. Together, they formed a diverse group of aspiring leaders committed to enhancing their leadership abilities and making a positive impact in their respective spheres.

Kimberly Becker and the Golden Belt Community Foundation have once again demonstrated their commitment to fostering leadership excellence in the community, equipping individuals with the skills and confidence to drive positive change. As the Goldenbelt Leadership classes have come to an end, the participants are now prepared to embark on their leadership journeys, armed with the knowledge and insights gained throughout the course. The impact of this program is expected to resonate far beyond the confines of the classroom, as these emerging leaders bring their newfound skills and perspectives to bear in their various endeavors.

For more information please contact Kimberly Becker, [moveyourmountain19@gmail.com](mailto:moveyourmountain19@gmail.com).





# Megan Barfield of Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Completes 3rd Year at Institute for Organization Management

*A Leadership Training Program Produced by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce*

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce that Megan Barfield, President, and CEO, of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, has recently completed her third year at Institute for Organization Management, a four-year nonprofit leadership training program at the University of Wisconsin's School of Business in Madison, WI.

"Institute graduates are recognized across the country as leaders in their industries and organizations," said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, the U.S. Chamber's vice president of Institute for Organization Management. "These individuals have the knowledge, skills, and dedication necessary to achieve professional and organizational success in the dynamic association and chamber industries."

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates. Institute's curriculum consists of four weeklong sessions at four different university locations throughout the country. Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, Institute participants are able to enhance their own organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

Institute for Organization Management is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.



## Marketing Maven Consulting Moves to New Larger Office Space in Great Bend

We are thrilled to announce that as of June 12, 2023 the Marketing Maven team is now based out of a new, larger and more centralized location at 3108 10th Street in Great Bend, Kansas. As our team and our client base continues to grow, it was evident that this was the next logical move for our growing firm.

Clients, friends, and community members are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 11th for a Grand Opening event and come-and-go reception from 12:00 - 1:30 PM. Guests can enjoy charcuterie, mini cheesecakes, and other refreshments. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be conducted by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce at 1:00 PM. We hope you can stop by and check out our new digs, either during the Grand Opening, or the next time you're driving through Great Bend.

Learn more about what we've been up to as our business grows by browsing our website, or looking us up on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok. For more information or to schedule a free consult, contact Rachel at 620-786-4896 or email [rachel@marketingmavenconsulting.com](mailto:rachel@marketingmavenconsulting.com).



## Outstanding Youth Crew Members Awarded at End-of-Year Celebration

Aaron Deason, second from left, earned the Outstanding Achievement Award at the recent Youth Crew end-of-year celebration at the Eagles Lodge. The award recognizes Deason's attendance at Youth Crew meetings and events, active participation, positive mindset and the willingness to help others. Also pictured, from left to right, are Tyler Morton, Katelyn Sigler and Marissa Woodmansee.

Jasmine Figueroa, second from left, earned the Next Generation Award at the recent Youth Crew end-of-year celebration at the Eagles Lodge. The award recognizes Figueroa's involvement in Youth Crew activities, while furthering her education and sharing information to increase awareness of Barton County prevention efforts. Also pictured, from left to right, are Tyler Morton, Katelyn Sigler and Marissa Woodmansee.



Continued from Page 3

## Maurices

that resonates with everyone who walks through its doors. Store Manager Bailey Zink spoke to customers, employees, and Chamber Ambassadors reiterating Maurice's commitment to the local community and its dedication to fostering meaningful connections. As Maurices embarks on the next phase of its journey, the company remains steadfast in its commitment to providing exceptional fashion experiences, championing diversity, and empowering women to embrace their true selves. Maurices extends its heartfelt gratitude to the community of Great Bend, KS, for their unwavering support over the past 15 years and looks forward to many more years of shared success and growth.



## Great Bend Rotary Club Celebrates 100 Years

The Great Bend Rotary Club proudly celebrated its centennial celebration with a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating a century of service and community impact. Organized by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, the ribbon cutting ceremony took place at Tellers 1872 on June 15th, immediately following the club's Chamber Coffee. During the celebration, Rotary President Elect, Megan Barfield, shared the international and local impact of the Great Bend Rotary Club.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers who come together to generate ideas, collaborate with leaders, and take decisive action to foster enduring change. The organization offers boundless opportunities and is more than just a club to join—it is an organization that empowers individuals to create positive transformations across the globe, within our communities, and within ourselves.

Through the collective efforts of its 35,000+ clubs, Rotary addresses

the world's most persistent challenges. These efforts include promoting peace, fighting diseases such as polio, providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. Rotary's impact has been instrumental in shaping a better future for humanity.

Since its establishment in May of 1923, the Great Bend Rotary Club has been a pillar of service in the community for 100 years. The current officers leading the club's endeavors are as follows: Khriston, President; Megan Barfield, President elect; Christy Tustin, Secretary; Devin McMillen, Treasurer; Craig Neeland, Membership Chairman; Mark Mingenback, Program Chairman; and Pat Cale, Special Project Chairman.

For more information about the Great Bend Rotary Club, connect on Facebook, @RotaryGBK, or call (620) 792-2401.

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**July 5-9, 2023**

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## Great Bend Economic Development Recognizes Zarah with Loft Grant, Launches New Incentive Program, and Announces Groundbreaking for Advancing Barton County Childcare Center

Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) has announced the recipient of the Loft Grant, a program focused on revitalizing downtown Great Bend. The Zarah, an impressive development in the historic district, will receive the grant to support the creation of 24 new residential units, contributing to the growth and vibrancy of the area. The award presentation will take place at a press conference on June 21st, with GBED unveiling a new incentive program designed to assist homeowners in Barton County. The program aims to provide support for homeowners with older properties, going beyond exterior painting projects offered by the existing Brush Up Barton County program. GBED is dedicated to promoting economic growth and community development, striving to create a thriving environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in Barton County.



Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) has announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC) daycare center. Scheduled for July 11th at 9 am, the event will mark the beginning of a transformative project aimed at addressing the increasing demand for childcare in the community. The 6,500 square-foot facility, designed to accommodate up to 59 children, will be the first of several daycares to be constructed across Barton County. ABCC is actively selecting a site director and has appointed Icon Structures as the construction manager for the project. This initiative represents an investment in the community's well-being and economic growth, providing a nurturing environment for children while supporting working parents. GBED expresses gratitude to all supporters of the initiative and looks forward to celebrating the groundbreaking ceremony and the positive impact ABCC will have on families in the community.



## Urgent Appeal: Kansas - Star of Hope Seeks Immediate Food Assistance for Devastated Haiti After Severe Floods

Star of Hope urgently appeals for immediate food assistance to alleviate the dire situation in Haiti following the recent devastating floods. The affected areas, particularly Port-au-Prince and surrounding regions, have been severely impacted, leaving countless families displaced, homes destroyed, and communities in distress.

According to our Haiti project manager, Tony Boursiquot, the floodwaters have yet to go down in all places, resulting in extensive damage and loss. The flash floods demolished homes, carrying away their contents, including animals and personal belongings. The vulnerability of the local housing, constructed with flimsy exteriors, meant that numerous households suffered total losses.

The destruction of bridges and roads has effectively halted transportation, hindering the movement of goods and people. Furthermore, the floods have exacerbated the already hazardous travel conditions due to safety concerns related to high gang violence. Boursiquot emphasizes the urgent need for immediate assistance, as the lack of commercial activity has again led to rising prices for essential food items. The situation is further compounded by the weak functioning of the government, which needs more resources to repair infrastructure and restore transportation routes.

While the Star of Hope schools and churches have not suffered significant damage, several communities, including Boyer, Rigaud, Dano, and Boise Negresse, have been severely affected. Homes, crops, and livestock have been lost, leaving many families with nothing and no markets to buy from.

Considering the challenges, Boursiquot requests "support to provide food kits for the affected families. These kits would include rice, cooking oil, sugar, and, if possible, additional items such as beans, fish, spaghetti, and soap." Due to travel concerns, our Project Manager anticipates focusing relief efforts on Boise Negresse, Hess, and Dano, where intervention is relatively safer. However, he is determined to assess the situation comprehensively and aid all our communities. He intends to travel to all the affected regions despite the significant challenges.

Star of Hope urgently calls upon all individuals, organizations, and governments to extend their support to the people of Haiti during this critical time. Contributions will help address the immediate food crisis and provide hope for the affected families to rebuild their lives.

To donate or learn more about our relief efforts, please visit [www.starofhope.us](http://www.starofhope.us). You can also scan the QR code in this issue.

### Flooding in Haiti!

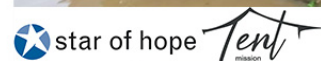
Our kids are affected! Provide a food box and share your blessings.

All is lost for many. Farmers crops and family food gardens are lost. School books and paper destroyed. They need you.

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# GREAT BEND

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### FEATURED AMBASSADOR

**RICHARD LARTZ II**  
**BARTON COUNTY**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



#### What brought you to Great Bend?

What brought me here? I had worked for the Santa Fe Trail Center in Larned from June of 2016 until the end of October 2019 and then went to work as a forklift operator for Old Dominion at the terminal by the Great Bend airport. Veronica Coons had interviewed me a few times while I was at the trail center and had mentioned to me that the Barton County Historical Society was looking for a director. I contacted and talked to someone on the board but then didn't hear back, which tends to happen in museum work so I didn't think much of it. A little over a year later, Veronica contacted me again and asked if I was still in the area and interested in museum work, and at that time I was the warehouse manager for H&H roofing in Larned. I submitted my resume and interviewed for the position... and here I am today! What keeps me here? Museum work is a labor of love. I think the Barton County Historical Society has a great collection of objects and stories to tell about this community and I'd like to do my best in exhibiting those stories so they can be shared. I have a good staff who does good work and I'm very appreciative of all they do because without them it would be almost impossible to stay on top of my day-to-day responsibilities. The staff and volunteers of the historical society really do a lot and I appreciate all the effort they put in here.

#### Where do you work and what do you do there?

Day to Day? I would say there is a lot that happens in the day-to-day operations of a museum and am not always in one spot. I could be at my desk answering and reading emails, writing new emails, or answering questions and concerns of my staff or volunteers. I may also be in there working on a new set of ads for an upcoming event to post on our facebook page or website, or communicating with potential presenters for our programs... or checking on the ones we have scheduled to make sure everything is on point. I can be found back in the exhibits workroom, working on exhibit concepts or designs, or making object mounts for artifacts before they go on display. Lately I have been working in our upstairs collections area, sorting and reorganizing to make way for shelving units so the collection's organization is more professional. Daily, I check in and around our historic structures and grounds to make sure our campus is tidy and that there aren't issues with our buildings or artifacts we keep in our barns. It is a very multi-faceted position with more to it than think most people realize.

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

I really love to do karaoke and love music in general but my favorite genres are heavy metal and punk.

#### What energizes you and brings you excitement?

I find inspiration in a lot of things. I love thunderstorms, taking walks, meeting new people, visiting other museums and historical societies, as well as traveling to other places. In a lot of my travels, I have found people from place to place are more alike than they are different.

#### At what job, would you be terrible?

I would suck at most anything involving heights or being on tall ladders for long periods. I'll suck it up and deal if I have to but I do not like it one bit. I stood at the top of a 12 foot ladder as a volunteer for a museum in Milwaukee and I was sweating bullets by the time I put my feet back on solid ground.

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

I haven't been a Chamber Ambassador for very long, a few months at best, but I enjoy the camaraderie of the group and I enjoy helping out where I can. It has been really great getting to know the other ambassadors too.



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# Rosewood Services Celebrates Silver Anniversary with Packed Zoo Picnic

It was Rosewood celebration time at Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo for several hours on Friday, May 12. That's because the west lawn of the zoo was filled with multitudes of blue-shirt-wearing people, all representing Rosewood Services. The agency that started with only a dozen clients and an innovative vision for people with disabilities to "Celebrate Life," celebrated its silver anniversary in business during the noontime picnic with nearly 500 people – comprising clients, their families, employees and Rosewood supporters – in attendance.

The day featured a picnic lunch with grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, and sides. Attendees participated in the fun atmosphere at the zoo, which included yard games, a photo booth, scavenger hunt, animal encounters, coordinated by zoo staff, and raffle give-aways. Rosewood Services Founder and Executive Director Tammy Hammond provided remarks to those gathered for the silver anniversary celebration.



What began as a dream in May 1998, with Hammond as the agency's only employee, has now grown to become one of the state's greatest advocates and supporters of people with disabilities. Over the years, Rosewood has also become one of the area's largest employers, employing more than 200 people, who daily serve nearly 200 people with disabilities.

Hammond recounted "the Rosewood story" by walking the audience through the history, reminiscing about the early challenges, reflecting on the agency's growth and diversity, marking today's successes, and ending with promising encouragement for Rosewood's future.

"While our past impact is important, it truly is what each one of us does today, and what we will do tomorrow that continues to impact lives and the community around us," said Hammond. "You are important. What you do makes a difference. We continue to write this story, the Rosewood story, together."

Kansas Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Dan Biles, a long-time advocate of Rosewood and people with disabilities, also provided words of encouragement to those in attendance.

"This is an incredible, incredible accomplishment that all of you have achieved in this community and in the state," Biles told the crowd. "I'm a constitutional officer, so I think I can say thank you on behalf of the state of Kansas. The relationship that I have with this program has meant as much to me as anything in my life. ... Have a good day and reflect on what all of you have accomplished in your work here."

Rosewood has created a vast world of opportunities for people with disabilities: From a therapeutic equestrian program, to a hardwood furniture manufacturing store, to a greenhouse and garden that grows tomatoes, to a studio and kitchen where jellies and other products are made and sold at retail locations. Work opportunities even include the nation's only winery designed for the employment of people with developmental disabilities. These innovative programs have earned dozens of awards, from world championships won by riders in the equestrian program, to state honors in wine contests, to Rosewood being featured on nationally televised programs.

During the celebration, Hammond took time to recognize many long-time employees, as well as people who have played a fundamental role in supporting Rosewood Services throughout its 25-year history. Early supporters like Roland and Jane Smith, Randy and Sandy Smith, Leon and Carol Fishburn, Jeannie Girton and Phyllis Vogt provided Hammond encouragement to start Rosewood Services. Original employees Vicki Schmitt, LaDonna Dirks, Patty Halseth, Grace Johnson, Virginia Jacobs and Jennie Chism were instrumental in the start-up. Over the years, Hammond said she received expert guidance from Biles, as well as the late Bob Bethell, who served as a Kansas Representative. Local civic leaders Joel Jackson, Sheryl Cheely and Howard Partington have also played vital roles in Rosewood's success, she noted.

Hammond talked about the sacrifices made by her family, especially during the early years. Her husband, Eric, along with all four children – Andy, Amanda, Anna and Alex – perform key roles in the operation of Rosewood Services today. Eric is Ranch Manager and a PATH-certified equine instructor. Amanda and Anna are both administrators in agency services. Alex is the Winery manager, and Andy was instrumental in marketing Rosewood Wine to liquor stores across the state.

"I would like to say they chose to be a part of Rosewood, but I'm afraid, if you asked them, they might say it was more expectation than choice," Hammond said. "No matter their answer, I am very thankful they are here with me."

## Great Bend Pilot Helmet Event with Wise Old Owl

Pilot club of Great Bend Helmet People was joined by Wise Old Owl for story time at the Great Bend Public Library. There were parents and children present at the storytelling which had a theme of when riding or playing be safe.... The club fitted and gave away dozens of helmets with more to come next week.





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## CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

**Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am**

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

**July 6th, 2023**

### BARTON COUNTY FAIR

**455 W. Barton County Rd. Expo 2 in Great Bend**

Join us bright and early for a Business Appreciation Breakfast with pancakes and all the fixings, starting at 7:30AM, in Expo II! Breakfast begins at 7:30am, Program at 8:30 am. Outstanding door prizes provided by the 4-H Clubs will be drawn throughout the morning. The 2023 Barton County Fair runs from July 5th -10th! Learn more at [bartoncountyfair.com](http://bartoncountyfair.com).

**July 13th, 2023**

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**July 20th, 2023**

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**July 27th, 2023**

### BCC FOUNDATION

**Best Western Courtyard (2920 10th St.)**

The fundraising center for Barton Community College, the foundation is an independent nonprofit corporation that raises funds from private sources to support Barton Community College projects and programs that fall beyond the college's operating budget. The Barton Foundation was established in 1967 and is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization as classified by the Internal Revenue Service. Your contributions are tax-deductible, within the extent of the law. Barton Community College Foundation has been transforming into the multi-faceted face of Barton Community College along with the communities and students we serve.

**August 3, 2023**

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is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees

18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**  
Lake Barton Golf Club

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18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SCAN ME



Not a golfer?  
Patio Party only \$25  
4-6PM

## SEPT. 22

<b>9:30 AM</b>	REGISTRATION
<b>10 AM</b>	SHOT GUN START
<b>4 PM</b>	AWARDS

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18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

PRINT & MAIL OR REGISTER ONLINE

WWW.GREATBEND.ORG

Open to every level of golfer, we invite you to join us for an invigorating day of business networking, socializing and sporting fun!

**Date: Friday, September 22, 2022**

Lake Barton Golf Club

Registration: 9:30 a.m. | Shotgun Start: 10 a.m.

Mulligans, hole contests, drink carts & lunch included with golf registration!

## Hole Sponsor: Our business would like to support the 2022 Chamber Golf Tournament

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ We are in as a Hole Sponsor - \$100.00

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Bill My Company

### Hole Sponsorship Includes:

- Signage on a hole

### Interested in other Sponsorship Opportunities?

- Call the Chamber for more information: 620-792-2401

## Team Entry Form - \$450.00 Team Registration | \$115.00 Individual Registration

### GOLFER #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing golf cart? Y / N

### GOLFER #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing golf cart? Y / N

### GOLFER #3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing golf cart? Y / N

### GOLFER #4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bringing golf cart? Y / N

### TEAM NAME:

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of golf carts needed? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check Enclosed

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### Mail completed forms and payment to:

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce - Attn: Edith Solorzano

1125 Williams, Great Bend, KS 67530

**COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 9TH**

*Proceeds underwrite valuable member services & programs from the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce including: Central Kansas Jobs, Barton County Young Professionals, Kids Ag Day, and more.*



**JULY  
27,  
2023**

**For every Blizzard we sell on July 27, we will make a donation to Children's Miracle Network. Every cent we raise will stay in Kansas to help local kids. Last year we didn't quite meet our goal, but we sold 1,195 Blizzards! Same bet of a double donation this time, and we're setting the bar at 1,500. Spread the word, nag your boss, load up on Blizzard gift certificates; Whatever it takes!**

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* All Prices tax included	Mini \$3.13 #	Small \$3.67 #	Medium \$4.34 #	Large \$4.88 #
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2. Butterfinger				
3. Cherry Cheesecake				
4. Strawberry Cheesecake				
5. Chocolate Dip Strawberry				
6. Cookie Dough				
7. Cookie Dough Cake Batter				
8. Cotton Candy				
9. Heath				
10. M&M				
11. Oreo				
12. Oreo Brookie				
13. Pecan Cluster				
14. Puppy Chow				
15. Reese's PB Cup				
16. S,Mores				
17. Snickers				
18. Very Cherry Chip				
19. Xtreme				
<b>Total #</b>				