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Rally Round the Hometown Team

Argonne Rebels Reunion Weekend July 11-14, 2015

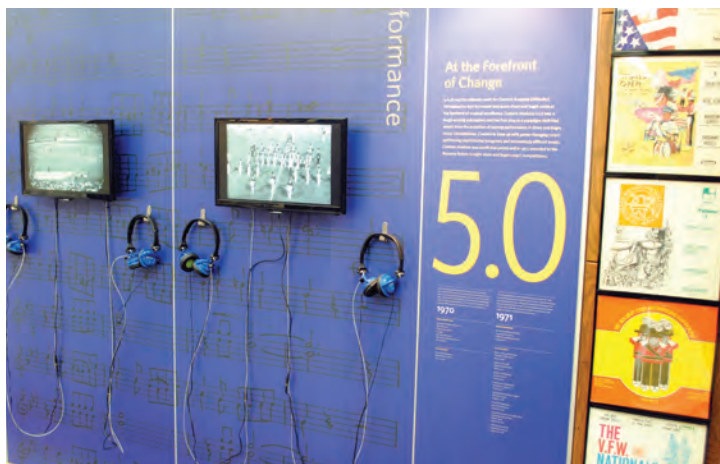
Not many competitive teams from Central Kansas can boast about earning national championship titles, let alone doing it three years in a row. The Argonne Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps is one of the few to accomplish such a feat. The volunteer youth program won back-to-back national championships in 1971 and 1972, and were named honorary champions in 1973. During this era, the Argonne Rebels served as our community's unofficial ambassadors to much of the nation as they traveled for countless performances and competitions around the United States in the 70's and 80's.

The corps was originally founded in 1947 by the St. Rose Catholic Church as an activity for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. A few years later, the American Legion Argonne Post 180 took over the sponsorship, at which time all area youth could participate as members. The group name was then changed in recognition of the Legion Post, which had been named after the Argonne Forest, the site of military action during World War I.

Being a member of the Argonne Rebels was a prestigious honor for teens and young adults between the ages of 13 and 21. Youth could start participating in the junior corps at the age of 13, with high school and college students participating in the competitive corps. Throughout the winter, ensembles would learn their parts and practice their routines. Then in the spring, the ensembles would come together as a group to begin learning drills in the high school gymnasium. Once school was out, corps members attended a workshop in Wichita to learn the professional choreography and practice marching in unison.

The corps wasn't just drums and bugles, like its name might suggest. In addition to a full percussion section and numerous brass instrument sections, each corps also had a rifle squad and a color guard adding to the choreography and showmanship of its performances.

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Argonne Rebels Weekend - Public Events

July 11th @ 3 p.m. - Exhibit Dedication

July 14th @ 7 p.m. - March of Champions Show

All Weekend - Exhibit Open Extended Hours

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Rally Round the Hometown Team

Argonne Rebels Reunion Weekend July 11-14, 2015

"When you became a member, you put the Rebels first. If you weren't on that field, your spot was empty," says Ron Straub, corps member from 1968-1973. "Most of the ensembles practiced once or twice per week, and we traveled all the time. The community rallied behind us. At every rehearsal, there might've been a hundred people sitting in the stands and watching. They were really routing for us to do well."

Competitions began in June, with most being held in the State of Kansas against the six other corps in existence at the time. A state championship was held amongst those seven corps, and the winner advanced to the national championship hosted by their sponsor. The American Legion and the VFW both held national sanctioned competitions in August right before classes started back up.

Synonymous with the Argonne Rebels are the names Glenn and Sandra Opie, who served as the Corps Director and Corps Instructor from 1949 to 1973. "The Opies were working with someone every day, whether it be an ensemble practice or a private lesson," Straub says. "They lived and breathed the Argonne Rebels, even up to Glenn's passing. Both of them are in the Drum Corps International Hall of Fame, and Glenn received the Citizen of the Year award in 2011. He kept amazing records of the corps, many of which are now being featured in the exhibit at the library."

In the forty plus years that the Argonne Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps existed and thrived in Barton County, more than 3,000 youth participated in the program. Countless stories and memories have been shared over the years, but several of the corps members wanted to establish a permanent legacy for the Argonne Rebels. To meet this goal, grants were secured from the Kansas Humanities Council to create a Hometown Teams exhibit alongside 17 other museums, historical societies, libraries, and community organizations across the state documenting local sports stories.

Now on display at the Great Bend Public Library, "The Hometown Team: How Our Community Championed Its Youth" is a world-class exhibit capturing the history, heritage, and legacy of the Argonne Rebels spearheaded by Great Bend native Scott Ward, who resides in Chicago. The exhibit has been in the making since the fall of 2013, and is part of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street Program.

The exhibit features hundreds of photographs, newspaper clippings, television monitors with visual and audio recordings of Argonne Rebels performances, championship flags, uniforms, squad rifles, instruments, and so much more. "We invite the public to visit the exhibit to learn about the corps and its rise to national prominence and its reputation for excellence," says Scott Ward, Argonne Rebels alumni and exhibit creator.

— Continued on Page 3



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— *Cont. from Page 2*

"The exhibit will be formally dedicated on July 11th, and we hope the community members and business owners will come see this temporary exhibit while it is available."

To commemorate the history of the Argonne Rebels and share in the nostalgia of its glory days, alumni and friends of the group will gather in Great Bend for a special reunion weekend July 11-14, 2015 with the theme "Rally Round the Hometown Team." Residents of Great Bend and Barton County are invited to take part in the public portions of the reunion, starting with the exhibit dedication on Saturday, July 11th at 3 p.m.

"The Argonne Rebels were made possible by the American Legion, but also by countless businesses and community members who helped us travel to competitions and fed us on the road. It was such a meaningful part of the community for so many years, and this dedication is our way of saying thank-you," says Jeff Yeager, reunion committee member. "The library is extending their normal hours so that the public can view the exhibit every day during the reunion weekend, even on Sunday."

The exhibit is open during the Great Bend Public Library's summer hours, which are posted online at www.greatbendpl.info.

In true Argonne Rebels style, a drum and bugle corps competition will serve as a grand finale to the exciting four-day weekend! A world-renown show entitled "March of Champions" will be held Tuesday, July 14th at 7 p.m. in the Great Bend High School Memorial Stadium, produced and organized by Drum Corps International, Drums Across Kansas, and Pageantry Inc. Seven of the best corps in the national will compete, including DCI finalists such as the Blue Knights of Denver, the Crossmen of San Antonio, and the Blue Stars of Lacrosse, Wisconsin.

Joining these corps will be perennial crowd favorite Troopers, Casper, Wy. Also in the 7 corps lineup are: Academy of Tempe, AZ; Oregon Crusaders of Portland, OR and Louisiana Stars of Lafayette, LA. These corps will provide an exciting and memorable evening. "The pageantry, precision and talent on the field will be spectacular," says show director Ron Straub. "The corps will be housed at area schools during their stay and everyone is welcome to visit their rehearsals."

The show will begin at 7 p.m. in the Great Bend High School Memorial Stadium, 2027 Morton Street. The box office will open at 10:30 a.m. on the day of the show, with gates opening at 5:30 p.m. Reserved seats are on sale now on the DCI website, dci.org/schedule/details.cfm?event=404, or they can be purchased from any First Kansas Bank location or at the Great Bend Wal-Mart Supercenter.

For more information about "Argonne Rebels Weekend – Rally Round the Hometown Team", be sure to find the Facebook event online, or visit www.dci.org. Events information can also be found on the Chamber website, www.greatbend.org.



Great Bend Public Library Celebrates New HVAC & New Summer Exhibit

After undergoing a series of renovations, the Great Bend Public Library returned to its home location at 1409 Williams Street last month. Shortly thereafter, the staff held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the facility improvements as well as unveiling the Argonne Rebels exhibit now on display throughout the summer. "The library's new geo-thermal HVAC system offers more temperature control building-wide, which makes for a more comfortable environment for our visitors," says Jennifer King, Marketing Department Head. "Patrons will also notice other changes throughout the building, such as a rearranged floor plan in the children's department and layout changes in the adult department. The Teen Spot received new lounge seating thanks to the Barton County Quality of Life Endowment."

With summer programs in full swing and a new exhibit dedicated to the legacy of the Argonne Rebels Drum & Bugle Corps (see cover story on Page 1), the Great Bend Public Library is a great place to incorporate in your summer plans. Library hours and information about library services are available online at www.GreatBendPL.info.



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Exhibit at First Ever Great Bend Business Showcase to Support USD 428 Teachers

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development has launched a new partnership with USD 428 to facilitate a teacher appreciation event that will be called the Great Bend Business Showcase. The inaugural event will take place Thursday, August 13th from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Commons Area at Great Bend High School, and will be open to the 700+ employees of USD 428.

"This event is being facilitated by the Chamber to give businesses an opportunity 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 staff," says Jan Peters, President/CEO of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

There is no cost to reserve an exhibit space, and each company is provided with one six-foot table and two chairs. This opportunity is available only to members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. Businesses interested in exhibiting should register online at fs30.formsite.com/bartonyyp/BusinessShowcase/index.html.



County Fair Returns in July "Just Be Claus"

Just Be Claus is the theme for this year's Barton County Fair. The theme is used to educate, inspire and appreciate the different cultures from around the World. Pick up a premium book or go online and look at the theme classes. Take out your Christmas decorations - it's okay - Christmas is only six months away. Get involved and bring your items to the fair, Just Be Claus! The Barton County Fair will take place at the Great Bend Expo Complex July 8-12, 2015. Learn more at BartonCountyFair.com

Chamber Office Closed Fourth of July

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will be closed Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, July 6th. For more information, visit www.greatbend.org or contact a member of the Chamber Staff at 620-792-2401.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of June, the Young Professionals Leadership Team facilitated a workshop called "Paving the Path to Success" featuring Kari Smith, Executive Vice President of Stores for The Buckle, Inc. Kari is a Great Bend native and still resides in Great Bend while juggling a busy executive career for one of the largest clothing franchises in America. Kari shared her insights into professional success and workplace leadership, alongside local community advocate Desa Marmie Behr, Sales Manager for Marmie Ford. As the sponsor for the event, Desa inspired attendees with her experiences as a community leader and how volunteerism can positively impact career growth.

In July, the group will gather for two events. The first will be the annual Family Pool Party & BBQ on Sunday, July 12th which will take place at the Hoisington City Pool, 718 W. 7th in Hoisington. From 5-7 p.m., current and prospective Young Professionals members can enjoy swimming, hot dogs, and other refreshments by the pool. There is no charge to attend, but RSVP's are requested by July 9th.

The second event in July will be a Personal Development Luncheon entitled "Wealth Management Tips" on Tuesday, July 21st from 12-1 p.m. at the Pizza Hut Buffet, 4101 10th Street in Great Bend. Local investment professional Todd Armatys will be the presenter. There is no admission fee to attend, but each participant must pay for their own meal. No advanced registration required.

Volunteers from the Young Professionals group are still actively working on The Tot Spot project, which will start being installed this month. The Tot Spot will be catered to children under the age of five, including infants who are just learning to crawl. Keep up with this project's successes by liking the Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/TheTotSpotGreatBend.

Want to Join?

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



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Highlighted Events in June

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

- 2... Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Great Bend Tribune, 2012 Forest, 9:30 a.m.
- 2... KWEC Kids Summer Program "Mighty Moths", 592 NE 156 Hwy, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- 2... Great Bend City Band Concert, Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 8:15 p.m.
- 3... Chamber Office Closed for Independence Day
- 4... Community Fireworks Display, Great Bend Expo Complex, 9:45 p.m.
- 6... BCYP Steering Committee Meeting, 1125 Williams, 4 p.m.
- 6... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 8-12... Barton County Fair, Expo Complex (www.bartoncountyfair.com)
- 9... Chamber Coffee: Barton County Fair, Expo II Building, 7:30 a.m. Business Breakfast followed by Chamber Coffee at 9 a.m.
- 9... KWEC Kids Summer Program "Protecting the Nest Egg", 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- 9... Farmers Bank Community Appreciation BBQ, 1017 Harrison, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 9... ChamberConnect Radio Show Aired, KVGB 1590 AM, 11:35 a.m.
- 9... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 9... Great Bend City Band Concert, Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 8:15 p.m.
- 10... KWEC Naturalist Camp, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 11... Argonne Rebels Exhibit Dedication "Rally Round the Hometown Team", Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams, 3 p.m.
- 12... Young Professionals Family Pool Party & BBQ, Hoisington City Pool, 718 W. 7th in Hoisington, 5-7 p.m.
- 14... Cheyenne Bottoms Naturalists Meeting, KWEC, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 6-7 p.m.
- 14... March of Champions Drum & Bugle Corps Competition, GBHS Stadium, 7 p.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for August Issue of *Outlook Business Journal*
- 16... Chamber Coffee: Eagle Media Center, 1200 Baker, 9:30 a.m.
- 16... Great Bend City Band Concert, Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 8:15 p.m.
- 16... Free Outdoor Movie "E.T.", Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main, 9:15 p.m.
- 16-18... After Harvest Festival in Ellinwood
- 20... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 20... KWEC Day Camp "Insect Investigation", 592 NE 156 Hwy, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 21... Young Professionals Personal Development Luncheon "Wealth Management Tips", Pizza Hut Buffet, 4101 10th, 12-1 p.m.
- 22... KWEC Day Camp "Hop, Slither, and Crawl", 592 NE 156 Hwy, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 23... Chamber Coffee: Divine Arrangements Events & Designs, Chamber Board Room, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.
- 24... KWEC Day Camp "Magnificent Mammals", 592 NE 156 Hwy, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 24... Chamber Business After Hours: American Legion, 1011 Kansas, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 24... Flyer Insert Deadline for August Issue of *Outlook Business Journal*
- 25... Summer Sidewalk Sale, Participating Retailers
- 28... Human Resource Roundtable Luncheon "Health Care Reform", The Page, 2920 10th, 11:30 a.m.
- 30... Chamber Coffee: First Congregational United Church of Christ, 3400 21st, 9:30 a.m.

Recurring Events

- Barton County Commission Meetings, Mondays, Courthouse Room 106, 9 a.m.
- GBHHH Grief Support Group Meetings, Mondays, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo, Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
- Free Story Time at Everything Under the Sun, 407 McKinley, 10 a.m.
- Dinner Served at American Legion, 1011 Kansas Avenue, Wed. & Fri. at 6 p.m.
- City of Great Bend Band Concerts, Thursdays, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.

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

www.greatbend.org



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A “Growing” Business For Over Twenty Years

More than two decades ago, as Brian Mitchell was juggling a full-time corporate job and moonlighting in his solo lawn-mowing business, he knew something had to give. That something was the corporate job. Mitchell wanted to be in control of his own destiny, said good-bye to the “regular” job and never looked back.

After 12 years with Dillons, Mitchell opened Pro-Green Total Lawn Care Inc. in 1995 with one other employee; today he is owner/president of the company that employs 15 people. Pro-Green has enjoyed steady growth since its birth at a temporary location on Washington Street to become a diversified, one-stop, lawn-care company.

The year after the opening, Pro-Green moved to 1720 Main where it remains today. “I wanted my side job to become my day job,” Mitchell explained. “It was a leap of faith. You can’t give 100 percent in two directions.”

Mitchell bought Workman’s Greener Lawns from Larry Workman in 1996 and Turf Services from Max Roberts the following year. At the time, he added granular fertilization and aeration services.

Other additions during the late 1990s and early 2000s included industrial weed control; tree removal, trimming and spraying; lawn renovation and over-seeding; and complete sprinkler-system installation and repair. Pro-Green also branched out into the retail side of the business and now maintains one of the largest inventories of turf equipment in Barton County.

The inventory includes Hustler, Toro and Walker turf equipment, and Echo outdoor power equipment. Mitchell also added trailer sales this year. The range of equipment goes from the simplest walk-power mower to the top-of-the-line industrial machine.



Owner Brian Mitchell finishes a sales quote for a new customer. Mitchell employs 15 people, with two in the office and the rest in the field completing mowing, spraying, fertilizing, installation, and maintenance projects.

“As the industry has evolved, we have more than kept up with the pace,” Mitchell said. “Diversification is important because you don’t have to rely on one thing. We also have satellite locations in Hutchinson and Russell, and there is more expansion in the works.”

Mitchell’s 25-year-old son, Dillon, has played an instrumental role in growing the retail side of the business since his graduation from Barton Community College. “Dillon came to work here and has been a big part of the retail,” Mitchell said. “He is the next generation in the lawn industry.”

Other Pro-Green employees have been the heart and soul of the business for many years. “Honestly,” Mitchell said, “I have been blessed with highly skilled people who are loyal. Many have been here for more than 10 years and some close to 20 years.

“The people who work here like our customers and vice versa,” he continued. “We know what gate to use at their homes and we know their dogs’ names. We also use Facebook and texting, which the customers like. And in July, we will have a great new website. We are pushing the envelope with service.

“We have many of the original customers we had when we opened in 1995,” he elaborated. “There is a strong customer retention rate. That tells you a lot.”

The company’s service territory includes a 30-mile radius of Great Bend, with many customers in Larned, Ellinwood and St. John. Many of the jobs in various Pro-Green divisions mandate strict standards and licensure, which result in safety and customer confidence. “We also are sensitive about hazardous chemicals and do our part to protect the environment,” Mitchell noted. “We live here and our families live here. We are sensitive to all of it.”

Pro-Green folks, who understand there are a lot of do-it-yourselfers out there, are available to answer questions too. “For example,” the owner said, “if you want to renovate a lawn, we will offer advice about how to do it; we will coach you with free advice. We will say ‘this is what works for us.’

“Usually,” he added, “some of the do-it-yourselfers have taken a few swings at it themselves and need some guidance.”

And then there are those who simply don’t want to mess with lawn care and others who don’t have time. “Timing is everything in this business considering the seasonal needs,” Mitchell said. “We will design a better system for our customers. We are aware of the sunny and shady areas of a lawn and know what will grow in each location.

“We also know you don’t want water from the lawn sprinklers hitting your windows,” he continued. “We consider all this and look ahead 20 years while designing a landscaping plan.”

Pro-Green always is aware of these different customer needs. Some just “want an okay lawn with no weeds; and then there are what we call ‘extreme lawn lovers,’” Mitchell remarked. “We take care of both extremes and everything in between.”



Great Bend... At Your Service Awards Nex-Tech Wireless & Traveler's Budget Inn

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

The award contest utilizes a free online training provided by the State of Kansas called "Kansas At Your Service" which is available 24/7 at www.KansasAtYourService.com. Two local businesses earned 100% participation amongst their staff, and are receiving the local award from the Chamber and CVB in recognition for their efforts to provide the highest quality customer service. Traveler's Budget Inn and Nex-Tech Wireless are the July recipients for the "Great Bend... At Your Service" award.

If your company is interested in qualifying for this award, encourage your staff to complete the online training at their convenience. Each employee who completes the state and regional training will get a printable certificate that the employer is asked to track until all they have 100% employee participation. Then they should notify the CVB at 620-792-2750 to let them know they have reached the 100% milestone. Each month between now and the end of the year, the Chamber and CVB will give up to two awards per month to businesses who can achieve 100% participation. Award recipients will receive a photo and write-up in the Outlook Business Journal, along with a framed award certificate to display in their business.

As an added incentive, all individuals that complete both the basic and regional portions of the At Your Service training will be entered to win one of three \$100 cash prizes that will be given away later this year. The contest runs until November 1st so employers are encouraged to facilitate the training opportunity prior to that date for maximum participation. For more information or with questions, contact Jenna Applebee at 620-792-2750.



Klusener Earns 50-Year Award

The Kansas Funeral Directors Association, Inc. (KFDA) held its 118th Annual Convention in May, at which time funeral directors and embalmers participate in continuing education and an award ceremony. During the convention, KFDDA President Dudley Feuerborn presented Larry Klusener of Bryant Funeral Home in Great Bend, with a "50 Year Award," recognizing his fifty years of faithful service to the funeral profession.

A 1958 graduate of Great Bend High School, Klusener attended Salt City Business College, Hutchinson, and Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, beginning his career at Elliott Mortuary, Hutchinson, in 1963. He spent the next fourteen years in Hutchinson, returning to Great Bend in 1978, as co-owner of Fryberger Mortuary. Klusener joined the staff of Bryant-Christians Funeral Home, now Bryant Funeral Home, in 1990, continuing work on a full-time basis. Larry Klusener is married to his wife, Pat, with two children, Greg Klusener and Julie Staab, and three grandchildren.

Comfort Inn Earns Two Travel Awards & Introduces Two New General Managers

The Comfort Inn of Great Bend was recently recognized with two prestigious awards from TripAdvisor.com and Booking.com for their high standards of excellence, as rated by the guests who have stayed at Comfort Inn in the past.

"We mention to guests that they are encouraged to rate us on Trip Advisor, and the ones who have responded gave us glowing reviews," says Alycia Madsen, who has been with the hotel for over six years.

The new general managers, Ankit and Sonya Patel, moved to Great Bend in June from Garden City to manage the local franchise. "We've been in the hospitality industry our entire lives, having both grown up in hotel and motel families," Ankit says. "We've seen all ranges of properties, and are very proud of the standards already in place at this one. We have a great staff, who really take pride in making sure the guests are happy."

The Comfort Inn is the newest hotel property in Great Bend, with more recent upgrades to lighting and sinks. "We have good systems in place for each department, and are constantly working on those so every guest has a good experience."





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First Christian Church Celebrates Exciting Transformations for Children's Wing

The hallways of First Christian Church come alive to children and adults alike, as the animals curiously pop their heads out of Noah's massive Ark. On the other side a soothing coral and blue sunset over water illuminate the once bare white walls of the new children's wing. "To be the Church that God is calling us to be, we felt like we needed to create a space and use a curriculum that would really connect with our kiddos on their level in an exciting way. Which we have accomplished though the renovation of our children's wing and the implementation of the rotation model. Our kids are now so excited about Sunday school they are dragging their parents, and not the other way around," explained Rev. Josh Leu, Senior Minister.

Entering into the preschool room visitors see the inside of Noah's ark lodging life size elephants, dairy cows, hippos, a moose, and small roaming creatures.

"As we began this process last spring, we knew the church needed better organization of our children's programing from both a physical and curriculum stand point," stated Dena Hiss, Christian Education Chair. "We began rearranging classroom layout, addressing child safety, researching curriculum, and dreaming about decorating with a 'wow' factor to help immerse children in another world."

Once Children and Youth Pastor Sue Bishop was hired in October the real collaboration began. She and Hiss worked on restructuring the entire children's programing from baby to 6th grade. Including building construction with Brentwood Builders, purchasing new furniture, implementing a rotation model style curriculum, and hiring Worlds of Wow out of Texas to give the children's wing a big impact in decor.

"We started the rotation model to submerge the children in the Bible through hands on experience instead of just presenting information to them. It is a very exciting way for children to learn, their eyes light up when they see the new space and experience the Sunday school classes," described Sue Bishop, Associate Minister, Children and Youth Pastor.

Bishop has been teaching and training other churches in the rotation model curriculum for 12 years. The children move each Sunday to

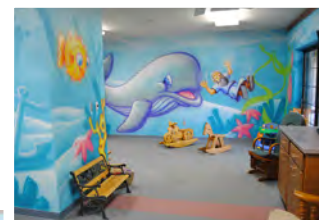
different themed rooms such as science laboratory, cooking, games, art, musical movement, bible skills, storytelling, and movie theatre. The curriculum model is based on the multiple intelligence theory by Howard Gardner which helps each child learn no matter their particular learning style.

Further down the hall into the music and Bible skills room, a visitor enters into a bright music factory ending with bubbly words stating peace, love, and joy, exactly what the teachers intend for the children who will learn spiritual lessons through musical movement and Bible skills.

The church nursery was also decorated by the artist from Worlds of Wow in a 'Jonah and the Whale' underwater theme including brightly colored octopus, dolphins, schools of fish, and sea foliage swimming on the walls.

First Christian Church is located on 5230 Broadway and K-96 and is of the Disciples of Christ denomination.

The mission of the church is, "As FCC Great Bend we are a community of Jesus followers who are devoted to sharing Christ with the World, providing opportunities for deep spiritual development, and raising up the next generations of Disciples!"



Sizzling Summer Sidewalk Sale July 25

The Sizzling Summer Sidewalk Sale returns Saturday, July 25th! The triple digit temperatures may be staggering, but so are the savings you can find during the much-anticipated annual event. Over two dozen stores participate by offering discounts, clearance mark-downs, or special promotions. Grab your wallet and your kiddos and head to participating retailers for a fun-filled day of exploring! For more information, contact City of Great Bend Community Coordinator Christina Hayes at 620-793-4111.

Community Fireworks Display July 4

To celebrate Independence Day on July 4, 2015, the City of Great Bend - along with Sunflower Diversified Services and many other sponsors - will host a Community Fireworks Display at the Great Bend Expo Complex. Gates will open at 7:30 p.m. The show is choreographed to music, and will begin at dusk. Eagle Radio will begin a live broadcast at 8:30 p.m. The show will begin as soon as it is dark enough (between 9:45 and 10 p.m.). Read more on the calendar of events at www.greatbend.org.

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Ambassador Profile - Sarah Adams

The Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber in a number of ways. They host the weekly Chamber Coffees, attend Business After Hours and Ribbon Cuttings, serve on Chamber committees, and assist with member recruitment and retention efforts. They also volunteer at numerous Chamber events, such as the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo and the Annual Banquet. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact us, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.



Where I Work

I am a teller for Landmark Bank, working in the downtown branch. I have been with Landmark since the end of December. While the banking industry is new to me, I have spent over ten years in customer service.

Background

After I graduated from Great Bend High School, I attend Fort Hays State University and studied leadership, earning a couple different leadership certificates.

My Family

I married my husband, Nelson, back in September. Since then, we welcomed our beautiful daughter, Paisley, to the family. She is now just over 3 months old and fills our hearts with joy. Nelson also has 2 daughters, Kailee, 14, and Jaelynn, 12. And I can't forget our dog, Big Bella, a 220-pound Mastiff.

As an Ambassador

I have been an Ambassador for about two years now. I enjoy being involved with the community and also getting the chance to see what many local business have to offer through Chamber Coffees. I have gotten to know so many different people through Chamber events and activities. Great Bend has been my home all my life, and I wouldn't want it any other way.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

Nelson and I love grilling and cooking new things together. Spending time at my parents' farm is always fun, and we enjoy lots of outdoor activities.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS for the Chamber Golf Tournament!

The 10th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament was held Friday, May 29th at the Stoneridge Country Club to raise money for the operations of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development and to facilitate networking opportunities for its members. We want to extend a sincere thank-you to all the businesses who sponsored this annual event!

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Welcome to These NEW Professionals! Chamber Members Announce New Hires & Additions

Amanda Baxter Joins Keller Real Estate

Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency would like to welcome Amanda Baxter as their newest agent. Baxter is a lifetime resident of Great Bend, Kansas and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Hays State University. She started with Keller Real Estate in August 2014, and is excited to help area residents find their next homes. "A home is often the largest investment made in a lifetime. I love selling real estate and I try to make the process as non-stressful and fun as possible," Baxter says. "My goal is customers and clients for life so I treat others as I would want to be treated with a high degree of honesty and respect."

Amanda and her husband, Mike, live in Great Bend with their two children, Dylan (14) and Hattie (2). Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency, Inc., was founded in 1968 and is dedicated to providing the highest quality of services available in both real estate and insurance. Along with residential sales, the Keller Agency also specializes in commercial and farm properties. For more details, visit KellerAgency.com or call Baxter at 620-639-4961.

Doonan Hires Manager of Marketing & Inside Sales

Doonan Specialized Trailer LLC, a leading manufacturer of commercial trailers, announced last month that Michael Hinton has joined the company as Manager of Marketing & Inside Sales. Mr. Hinton will report to Co-Managers, Mike Gordy and Elgen Reynolds. Hinton will lead and oversee the planning and implementation of Doonan's North American sales and marketing activities in support of the company's "Best in Class" dealer network, build and foster dealer and customer relationships, identify trailer market opportunities and develop product strategies and communications for all lines.

A Kansas native, Hinton brings more than 30 years of diversified sales, marketing and leadership experience to the company. Before joining Doonan, Mr. Hinton served as Marketing Manager, US Feed Operations with Hubbard Feeds Inc., headquartered in Mankato, MN. Michael holds an undergraduate degree from Wichita State University. He has relocated to Great Bend with his wife, Tonya, and daughter, Melissa. He offices at Doonan's Headquarters, located at 36 NE Highway 156, Building B, Great Bend, KS. Michael can be reached at 620-792-6222 or mhinton@doonan.com. For more information, visit: www.doonan.com.

Advanced Therapy Welcomes Dan Quillin

Dan Quillin, PT, DPT has recently joined Advanced Therapy & Sports Medicine's Physical Therapy Team. Dan is originally from Olathe, KS and attended Olathe South High School. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Athletic Training from Emporia State University. He then earned a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Wichita State University, and is currently an adjunct professor there. Dan and his wife, Heather, currently live in Great Bend and are training for a triathlon.

Advanced Therapy & Sports Medicine, located at 3715 10th Street in Great Bend, specializes outpatient orthopedic rehabilitation including injury, chronic conditions, post-operative care, and all musculoskeletal conditions. For more information, call 620-792-7868 or visit www.ptkansan.com.



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

Quacking to the Finish Line

Ducks were racing rain or shine on Saturday, June 13, for the "Quack for a Cause" Duck Race put on by the United Way of Central Kansas and the Larned State Hospital. Members of Pawnee and surrounding counties gathered around the Pawnee County Courthouse after the Santa Fe Trail Days Parade to watch close to 1,000 plastic ducks race for a chance to win the grand prize of \$2,000. The proceeds made by this event will stay local, as it will benefit the 19 agencies supported by the United Way of Central Kansas. Ty Racette of Larned had the first place duck and since he was present at the race, his winnings doubled to \$2,000 – what a lucky duck! The second place winner was Krysten Watkins, who also doubled her prize to \$1,000 as her duck came in second. To see the complete list of finalists, visit www.uwck.org.

Welcome to our Summer Intern

You may see a friendly face around Barton and Pawnee County this summer as the United Way of Central Kansas, Eldercare Inc., Volunteers in Action/RSVP and the Family Crisis Center welcome Alex Lessard as their summer intern. Alex will be a junior at Kansas State University this fall majoring in Journalism and Mass Communications in the Public Relations sequence. She is the daughter of Mark and Sharon Lessard of Larned. Because of her active involvement in her school and community, she plans to pursue a career in nonprofit public relations. Within the first month of her internship, she has assisted with Make a Movement, the Santa Fe Trail Days Duck Race, Out and About radio show, live radio remote and United Way of Central Kansas Local Super Hero video. We wish Alex luck and look forward to what she will bring to our community.

Join Us July 24th for an After Hours Event

The American Legion Post 180, located at 1101 Kansas Avenue, will host a Chamber After Hours event on Friday, July 24th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for refreshments and door prize drawings, along with a Quilts of Valor presentation. Drink tickets will be provided. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919, with the Great Bend Argonne Post 180 chartered in October of 1920.

WELCOME to these NEW Members!

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July 2, 2015

Great Bend Tribune • 2012 Forest Avenue

As the local news and multi-media leader, The Great Bend Tribune informs the community about matters of importance and interest. Featuring a blend of print, social media and digital products, the Tribune will be introducing its latest community project.

July 9, 2015

Barton County Fair • Expo II Building (7:30 a.m.)

The Barton County Fair is an opportunity to promote agriculture while providing a family, friendly atmosphere with a wide variety of entertainment. Young and old alike are able to show off their talents through their entries in the fair. Be sure to come and look at this year's decorations! Business Breakfast takes place at 7:30 to 9 a.m. with pancake breakfast.

July 16, 2015

Eagle Media Center • 1200 Baker Avenue

Eagle Communications has rebranded their Great Bend facility as the Eagle Media Center. This better brands the expanding role of digital media in the products offered in the Great Bend market by Eagle Communications. Join us for coffee at the Eagle Media Center.

July 23, 2015

**Divine Arrangements Events & Designs
Chamber Board Room • 1125 Williams**

Divine Arrangements Events & Designs, owned and operated by Susan Stambaugh, provides full-service event planning and décor rentals for your special occasion. From large weddings to more intimate banquets and functions, each event receives personal attention and creative ideas.

July 30, 2015

United Church of Christ • 3400 21st Street

As the first church in Great Bend, First Congregational United Church of Christ has been a part of this community since 1872. We believe in God's continuing testimony, open communion, and changing lives. Why? Because God is still speaking. All are welcome!

August 6, 2015

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Employment – Barton County

	April 14	April 15
Labor Force	16,986	15,813
Employment	16,447	15,159
Unemployment	539	654
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	4.1%
KS Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.3%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report

	April 14	April 15
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$402,875	\$384,284
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$211,501	\$202,632

Building Permits

	April 14	April 15
Commercial – GB	18	2
Residential - GB	36	43

Sources:

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

