

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

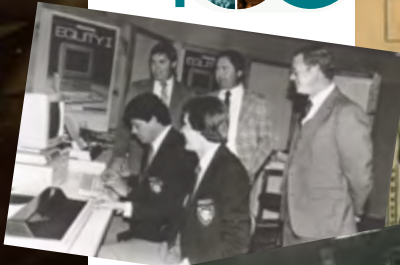
## business journal **ONLINE**

FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME 101 NO. 2

1921  YEARS 2021

WELCOME  
TO AWARDS NIGHT  
WITH THE  
CHAMBER



WELCOME



Boosters for "A Greater Great Bend"

## 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is celebrating 100 years and we need you to help us celebrate! This event will go down in the Chamber's history as one of the most memorable evenings celebrating the PEOPLE and the BUSINESSES who've paved the way for a bright future. Be a part of this night to remember.

The evening will include a cocktail & social hour, catered dinner, live music and the special recognition of our community award winners. Deadline to reserve seats is Monday, February 7th, 2022.

**Banquet Award Presentations Include:** Citizen of the Year | Business of the Year | NextGen Leader of the Year | Legacy Award

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: DR. NELS LINDBERG AND SON, NASH LINDBERG

You won't want to miss this year's Keynote Speakers, sponsored by Central Kansas Orthopedic Group, a part of the University of Kansas Health Systems.

Great Bend business owner, author, speaker, leadership coach, Dr. Nels Lindberg along with his son, Nash, will deliver a powerful story of resiliency and the power of positive thinking, prayer, friends and family.



After a near fatal accident left Nash Lindberg wondering if he would ever walk again, the Lindberg family turned all of their focus to Nash and his recovery.

Locally, Dr. Nels owns Animal Medical

Continued on Page 2

**Movers & Shakers:**  Click on title to jump to the story!

Check out the New Hires & Promotions!

COFFEE SCHEDULE



FEATURED AMBASSADOR



CALENDAR



NEW MEMBERS



Center but has pursued his passion in coaching and guiding people from all walks of life. He is a successful veterinarian and feedlot consultant. He is also a founding partner in multiple other businesses working to provide his people growth and development skills, leadership practices and development, as well as tactical and strategic thought processes to those partnerships. Dr. Nels is a sought-after speaker on business, life, and leadership. He consults entrepreneurs and businesses on those topics as well as diving deeper into daily tactics, and future strategic planning for the business and its people.

We would also like to thank our presenting sponsors: Barton Community College, Clara Barton Medical Center, and Spectrum CPA Partners!

## United Way of Central Kansas announces changes



The United Way of Central Kansas is excited, and a little sad, to announce some upcoming changes to their Board of Directors.

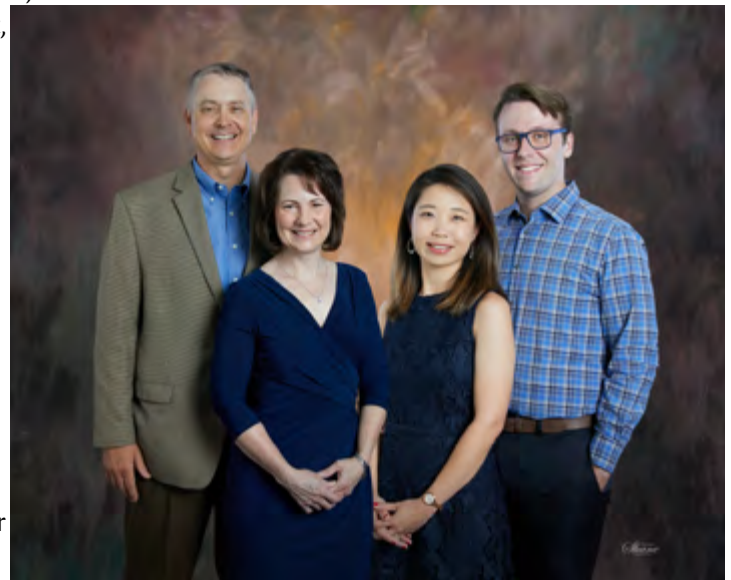
The first announcement is the resignation of Kevyn Soupiset from the Board. Kevyn has been a board member since 2014. Throughout his years of service, Kevyn has been thoughtful with his input regarding the direction of UWCK. He has always been willing to put forth his time for the betterment of the community and he will continue to do that with his roles with the City Council of Great Bend, Great Bend Economic Development, and Barton Community College. "We are grateful for Kevyn's support and dedication to UWCK and we look forward to continuing to work with him in a new capacity."

After two years as serving as Co-Chairs to the UWCK Campaign, the Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of four

new board members (pictured in the photo from right to left).

- Korby Boswell, Adams Brown
- Yuchen Wang-Boswell, Barton Community College
- Elise Snapp, University of Kansas Health Systems
- Paul Snapp, First Kansas Bank

"When these two couples joined our team, we had no idea what the next two years were going to look like. Within a month of coming on board, we were switching to Zoom and canceling events. They stuck with us as we navigated those changes and agreed to stick around as we eased back into normal. We are fortunate to have them officially on our Board of Directors and we look forward to continuing to work with them for years to come," Charell Owings, UWCK Executive Director.



# Sunflower Diversified plans Charity Gala; auction items needed

Cody Harris and his colleagues at Sunflower Diversified Services have been in the thick of organizing the non-profit agency's biggest fundraiser of the year.



The Sunflower Charity Gala is scheduled for 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Great Bend Events Center.

All proceeds go directly to infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays.

"We are so excited to host this great evening in the company of our many supporters," said Harris, Sunflower's director of planned giving and community supports. "Our online event was successful last year but there is nothing like meeting in person."

Sunflower has collected some items for the silent and live auctions but many more are needed, Harris said.

One of the bigger items already donated is a 10-by-12 Elite Gable shed from Sturdi-Bilt, Great Bend. The retail value is \$4,352.

"We cannot thank the Sturdi-Bilt folks enough," Harris said. "The people Sunflower serves and our staff are so grateful for this local support. The shed is a very attractive addition to our live auction."

"Our auctions have been popular over the years thanks to our generous donors," he added. "To continue this 17th annual tradition, we definitely need more items. Those who contribute can be assured their generosity will directly affect children and adults with special needs."

Cost for the Gala is \$100 per person. The evening starts with a social hour and silent auction. Ellsworth Steakhouse will cater the 7 p.m. dinner; the live auction will follow. An open bar is available throughout the event.

Scott Donovan is the emcee and Mike Niedens the auctioneer.

"Scott and Mike are always entertaining, while keeping the crowd fully engaged," Harris said. "Their commitment over the years to the people Sunflower serves is nothing short of exceptional."

"We encourage other long-time supporters and newcomers to contribute to this most worthy cause. You can attend the Gala, donate auction items, become a sponsor, serve as a volunteer or all of the above. The children and adults we serve are counting on us."

For more information, contact Harris by calling 620-792-1321.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is in its 56th year.



**Sturdi-Bilt donated this shed to the Sunflower Diversified Services Charity Gala. More items are needed for the silent and live auctions.**

## Virtual FiberSpace coming on February 12th



Heartland Farm is hosting the February session of Virtual FiberSpace 2022 on Zoom on Saturday, February 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Learn, renew, or further develop your fiber arts skills!

FiberSpace 2022 is an interactive, virtual experience for all skill levels –

beginner to advanced. Develop your first fiber skill, or add another to your repertoire. Learn to knit, traditional and/or Tunisian crochet, spin, or weave! Ask questions of and glean insight from our team of experienced fiber artists. If you're already experienced in these skills, hang out with fellow knitters, crocheters, weavers and spinners!

### SCHEDULE:

- 9:00-9:15 – Welcome
- 9:15-9:45 – Weaving tutorial: 4-harness loom
- 10:00-10:30 – spinning tutorial: plying
- 10:45-11:00 – knitting tutorial: advanced stitches
- 11:00-11:30 – traditional and Tunisian crochet tutorial: advanced stitches
- 11:30-noon – Heartland Farm virtual tour
- 1:30-3:30 – Breakout sessions based on fiber interest
- 3:30-4:00 – Wrap-up

If you are in need of a scholarship or know someone who might be, please contact Heartland Farm by email at [hfarm@gbta.net](mailto:hfarm@gbta.net) or by phone at 620-923-4585. Scholarships are funded through a generous donation from the Glenn and Elain Mull Family Donor Advised Fund/Golden Belt Community Foundation.

### Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the



1125 Williams,  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
Phone: 620-792-2401  
Fax: 620-792-2404

Web address: [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org)

**for a complete list of staff and board members [CLICK HERE](#)**



# Adams Brown Recognized by Forbes as a Best Tax and Accounting Firm for Third Consecutive Year

Adams Brown, Strategic Allies and CPAs, one of the largest 150 CPA firms in the nation, has been recognized by Forbes magazine as one of America's Best Tax and Accounting Firms. This is the third consecutive year of recognition, and the third year Forbes has produced this study.

Of the 223 firms on the list, Adams Brown is one of the 177 recognized for both tax and accounting. Additionally, the firm is one of only three firms recognized in Kansas and two in Arkansas. You can view



the entire list here. Forbes worked with Statista, an independent market research company, to survey industry peers and clients to determine the top recommended tax and accounting firms.

Adams Brown continues to go above+beyond for

their clients and strives to be strategic allies for our clients. From tax planning to new technology, you can rely on your advisors at Adams Brown.

Founded in 1917, Forbes is a leading financial publication focused on business, investing and lifestyles.

## Health System Expands Women's Services in Great Bend

The University of Kansas Health System is pleased



**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM**

to announce the addition of obstetrician and gynecologist Veerayyagari Annapurna, MD, to the care team at the Medical Pavilion at Great Bend Campus. Dr. Anna provides a full range of women's healthcare and is passionate about improving the quality of women's lives through every phase of life.

Dr. Anna practiced in Great Bend in 2018 and 2019 and is returning to Great Bend after spending the past 2 years

in Wichita, Kansas. "I am looking forward to the family atmosphere of the community and the health system, which is what I like most about Great Bend," she says.

Comprehensive care is a particular focus of Dr. Anna's practice, beginning with a woman's onset of menstruation through childbearing, menopause and beyond. She is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has more than 20 years' experience helping women with

high-risk pregnancy, family planning services, infertility

management, hormone replacement and more.

Dr. Anna earned her medical degree in India and completed her residency in Michigan.

Dr. Anna joins Jodi Henrikson, MD, and Sheila Hein, APRN, on our OB/GYN team at the hospital. Family medicine providers Micca Schneider, MD, and Jonathan Pike, MD, offer obstetrics care at St. Rose Medical Pavilion.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Anna, call 620-792-2151.

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Rosewood Bargain Barn  
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Mon - Fri, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

By recycling with us, you benefit your community, the environment, and you help create jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
(620) 603-8348  
[www.RosewoodServices.com](http://www.RosewoodServices.com)

The Mission of Rosewood ecycle is to provide work-related training and employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.

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# GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## FEATURED AMBASSADOR

**Cody Harris**

**Sunflower Diversified Services**

**What brought you to Great Bend? What keeps you here?**

My wife, Maggie, brought me to Great Bend from Hays almost 9 years ago. But I am so glad that I made the move because I have really found a home in the community here. The people I have met and grown to be friends with keep me here and wanting to make it a better place.

**Where do you work and what do you do there (describe your role)?**

I wear many hats in my new position, so everyday is different. In short, I help raise money for the Sunflower Diversified by planning fundraising events throughout the year. I also work with Vocational Rehabilitation clients to help them find work out in the community and thrive in the workplace.

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

I am a girl dad and proud of it! My wife and I just welcomed our third



daughter, Whitley Allyn, to the family in late December.

**What energizes you and brings you excitement?**

Fundraising and asking people for donations does not come naturally to me. But pulling off an event that I have been planning for months and seeing the difference that the funds make to the kids and adults we support makes me realize that I am in the right place and I can't wait for the next one!

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

I would be a terrible librarian, as being quiet is not my strongest skill.

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

This will be my 5th year as a chamber ambassador. I enjoy networking and getting to learn more about businesses in our area.

## Meet the 2022 Members of the Chamber Ambassadors Club

If you've ever attended a Chamber event such as our weekly Chamber Coffees, or an After-Hours, you've undoubtedly crossed paths with our Ambassadors, often times seen wearing a red shirt. In addition to Chamber Coffees and After-Hours, they can be found at the Annual Banquet, Golf Tournament, Ribbon Cuttings, groundbreaking ceremonies and more!

They are sprinkled into everything we do here at the Chamber, our eyes and ears, listening to what it is our members need. This group of volunteers work tirelessly to strengthen and support our business community!

**Join us in thanking our 2022 Chamber Ambassador Club Volunteers**

President: Megan Hammeke, GB Rec

Vice President: Cody Harris, Sunflower Diversified Services

**Retiring Ambassadors:**

- Michael Adamyk – Great Bend Public Library (Serving a 3 year-Term)
- Eric Fox – American State Bank (Serving 2 years)



- Dale MacKinney – Encounter Church (Serving since 2017)
- Heather Nicolet – INA Alert (Serving a 3-year Term)

**Continued on Page 6**





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*Wed. Feb 9th  
@ 8:30 am*

**FREE REGISTRATION:**  
GREATBEND.ORG/EVENTREGISTRATION

## Continued from page 5

- Shelly Peacock – TCI Answering Service (serving Two – 3 year-Terms)
- Shannon Stafford – Eagle Communications (Serving Two 3-year Terms)
- Megan Wells – Coldwell Bankers – Sell Real Estate (Serving a 3-year Term)
- Bailey Zink – Maurices (serving 2 years)
- Aaron Withrow – Foundry Methodist Church (serving 2 years)

### Incoming Ambassadors in 2022

- Kristin McAllister – Sunflower Bank
- Steve Lunsford – REH Insurance
- Charell Owings – United Way of Central Kansas
- Laura Blankenship – Yo Dog/Josh Blankenship Media
- Lindsey Bogner – BCC Foundation
- Amanda Staab – MPIRE Improvements
- Aaron Raney – Iron Therapy Training
- Brian Ewing – American Family Insurance

### Continuing their Service as Ambassadors

- Sonya Rein – Edward Jones
- Rich Baskerville – First Kansas Bank
- Jamie Bailey – KSN
- Sarah Panning – Nex-Tech/MPIRE Realty Group
- Jessica Milsap – MPIRE Realty Group
- Jeremy Elliott – MyLawn! Turf & Tree
- Trevor Olsen – Mr. Olsen's Natural Solutions/Kansas Trophy Experience
- Kris Sundahl – Edward Jones
- Michael Miller – Ronald L Miller Public Accounting
- Andrea Bauer – Great Bend USD 428
- Krystall Barnes – Barton Community College
- Shawn Powelson – Landmark National Bank
- Brad Shirer – Retired
- Patrick Cowan – Adams Brown
- Lleraldy Holguin – Buckle
- Julie Mazouch – Peoples Bank and Trust
- Davis Jimenez – Aflac
- Ryan Fairchild – Dry Lake Brewery /ILS

## Representative Arnberger-Blew elected unanimously as Majority Whip

The Republican House of Representatives and Redwing, along with a large portion of rural Barton County. Representative Tory Marie Arnberger-Blew as Majority Whip for the 2022 Legislative Session. “Being a part of the leadership team is a huge honor and I am eager to get to work for our caucus. With being the deputy whip for the past three sessions, I am confident that I am prepared for the next steps,” Arnberger-Blew said.



**Tory Marie Arnberger-Blew**

Representative Arnberger-Blew was elected in 2016 at the age of 23 to the 112th district. The district includes the towns of Great Bend, Hoisington,

and Redwing, along with a large portion of rural Barton County. Arnberger-Blew is also the Vice Chair of Federal and State Affairs, Chair of the Kansas Young Republicans, the Co-Chair of the Kansas Future Caucus and a 2021 graduate of the Kansas Emerging Leaders program.

“Having someone under 30 I think will benefit the leadership team and help advance legislation in the House. My generation is a bulk of the work force, and with the economy being a popular topic this year, I think I can deliver a different perspective to our caucus.”

### Brunner returns to Office Products Inc.

Office Products Inc. (OPI) customers may have noticed a familiar face in recent weeks now that Chris Brunner has re-joined the family-owned company.

Brunner, who worked at OPI from 2016-2018, is now focusing on outside sales in central and northwest Kansas.

"While I can help customers with virtually any OPI product and some of its services, my special interests are Canon copiers, and office furniture and supplies," Brunner said. "I also provide Fuller Brush cleaning products that we have in stock or can easily order."

During his previous stint at the Great Bend-based business, Brunner specialized in computer sales and eventually joined the information-technology team. He also repaired iPhones, Androids and tablets, and became certified in cash-register maintenance and repair.

"Setting up and maintaining cash-register systems is still a niche for me," he said. "And if someone needs a phone or tablet repaired, I can direct them down the right path."

Brunner noted that he is happy to be back at OPI because "I always enjoyed working for

the Vink family. I look up to Kenny Vink. He has helped me in a lot of ways and I consider him a mentor. It is so great that OPI is a family business that genuinely cares about its customers; we appreciate each one."

Kenny and Terry Vink are co-owners of the company.

"It is important for local and area residents to support businesses such as OPI," Brunner commented. "We have to support local ventures so they can prosper and employ



Chris Brunner

local people.

"For more than six decades, OPI has demonstrated its commitment to customers and the whole community in countless ways," he added.

OPI customers include individuals and all sizes of companies; free delivery is part of the service.

Kenny Vink said he is "glad that Chris is back at OPI. He is enthusiastic and has expertise in many areas. Our customers will benefit from the knowledge he has gained over the years in our industry."

OPI is located at 1204 Main in Great Bend, 516 Broadway in Larned, 724 N. Main in Russell and 2001 Vine in Hays.

### Kelly Higgins Joins Plains State Bank

Plains State Bank announces the addition of Kelly Higgins to their Great Bend Branch located at 800 Coolidge Street in Great Bend. Kelly will hold the title of Vice President Branch Manager. Kelly has 30 years of previous banking experience.

"We are excited to welcome Kelly to the Plains State Bank team," said Christy Kuhn, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. We are pleased about the business development qualities, experience, and background that Kelly brings to Plains State Bank. His leadership and commitment to the community will be a benefit to our organization."



Kelly Higgins

Kelly, his wife Debra, and three children are longtime residents of Great Bend. Kelly is looking forward to starting this new opportunity and continuing to provide quality products and services to customers in central Kansas.

The Plains State Bank was chartered in 1906. At The Plains State Bank, we are, "Financing Your Future" and our Employees, Officers and

Directors are committed to our customers. Today the bank has expanded to the communities of Plains, Lakin, Great Bend, Hutchinson, and Salina, Kansas. For more information about Plains State Bank visit their website at [www.plainsstatebank.com](http://www.plainsstatebank.com).

## Rosewood AKTION Club Conducting Blanket Drive Through March 15



Rosewood Miracle Workers AKTION Club is conducting a blanket drive as a way to help children in need. Now through March 15, Rosewood Miracle Workers are accepting new blankets, quilts, and homemade blankets. They are also accepting monetary donations, which will be used to purchase additional blankets.

Once the drive is completed, Rosewood AKTION Club members will deliver donations to three area agencies: Family Crisis Center, Barton County Health Department, and Central Kansas Dream Center.

All donated blankets and monetary donations can be delivered during regular business hours to one of two locations in downtown Great Bend: Rosewood Furniture Gallery, 1607 Main; or Rosewood Bargain Barn, 1215 Main.

"We hear how important this drive is to the organizations we are donating to each year when we drop off blankets," said Rosewood AKTION Club sponsor Frankie Pelster. "Our members understand the significance of helping children in our community, so they're eager to get started. Community involvement means so much to them and they are so appreciative of the collective results that are achieved each year. We're hoping for another great outcome again this year."

Rosewood AKTION Club is an affiliate of the national Kiwanis organization that promotes service in action for people with developmental disabilities. The area club allows Rosewood members to be actively involved in the community and to positively impact the lives of others.

Find more about Rosewood Services online, <http://rosewoodservices.com>, or follow them at [facebook.com/RosewoodServices](https://facebook.com/RosewoodServices). Click the graphic above to download the flyer!



## More New Hires & Promotions

# Reiser promoted to assistant Superintendent for Great Bend Schools

Building on a 35-year career in public education, Tricia Reiser has been promoted to assistant superintendent for USD 428 Great Bend Public Schools. The announcement was made at the USD 428 Board of Education meeting on Monday, January 10.

Beginning her career as a classroom teacher in multiple school districts across the state, Reiser moved "home" to Great Bend in 2005 to serve as Principal of Eisenhower Elementary for 11 years. In 2016, Reiser's focus shifted to district leadership as Federal Programs Director, then as Director of Teaching and Learning.

"I've made equity in education my life's mission," said Reiser. "Together as a district we've made great progress in our systematic approach to addressing the needs of all students."



**Tricia Reiser**

As assistant superintendent, Reiser will continue to oversee district curriculum, Federal and State Title programs, district multicultural program, professional development opportunities for teachers, social-emotional learning, Parents as Teachers, and the Parent Teacher Resource Center.

"Mrs. Reiser is a driving force in our pursuit of academic excellence in Great Bend Schools," said Khrist Thexton, superintendent. "This

promotion was earned with decades of dedicated service to our district; she is a leader and advocate who works tirelessly for students and teachers."

Adding to her credentials, Reiser earned her Ed. S. in Educational Leadership from Fort Hays State University in 2020, she also has a master's degree in School Leadership from Baker University and bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Kansas State University.

As a graduate of Great Bend High School, Reiser commented, "I'm a Great Bend Panther through and through, and both excited and proud to continue to serve our students, teachers, and community."

You can learn more about Tricia Reiser and the USD 428 Administration Team by visiting [GreatBendSchools.net](http://GreatBendSchools.net).

# Zimmer joins the ALZ Team in Central Kansas

Missy Zimmer. Missy was raised in, and continues to live in, Western Kansas. Her career in health care has included assisted living director positions in Hoisington and Ellinwood. Her Alzheimer's Association volunteer efforts have included Great Bend Walk committee chair and support group facilitator positions. Missy has a deep personal connection to Alzheimer's

and other dementia and recently lost her father to dementia. Missy says, "I am so excited to be part of this amazing organization that is accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support." Please join us as we welcome Missy to the Central & Western Kansas Chapter. #ENDALZ.



**Missy Zimmer**

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# Workforce challenges highlight Kansas Chamber survey

By Daniel Kiewel of the Great Bend Tribune

After nearly two years of COVID-19, the state's business community is largely back to normal, but is struggling with the quality of the Kansas workforce. That was the finding of the Kansas Chamber's 17th edition of its Annual Business Leaders Poll, released on Jan. 3.

"Each year, the Kansas Chamber asks business leaders from across the state to name the most important issues they face. This year's poll found concerns about the Kansas workforce are skyrocketing," said Kansas Chamber President and CEO Alan Cobb. "Kansas job creators are looking for leadership and solutions to our state's workforce challenges."

CHS & Associates was commissioned to conduct the poll.

Great Bend City Administrator Kendal Francis said this is an issue the city is facing as well.

"We have maybe a dozen openings at any one time and we may get one to two applicants, and usually the quality of those applicants are pretty poor. We struggle mightily to fill these positions," Francis said.

The pattern is repeated in nearly every employment sector in the city.

"It's every business in town, whether it's fast food or CEOs of a (larger) company, people are struggling to hire qualified individuals," Francis said.

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Director Megan Barfield said the persistent shortages many business face cause a domino effect that eats into the businesses' bottom lines.

"Business owners or those on staff (are forced) to work extra shifts, longer shifts, pick up extra duties, etc," Barfield said. "If a business owner is working the floor, so to speak, that is pulling away from his/her ability to work on their business, which leaves areas of the business neglected: inventory, bookkeeping, marketing. Priorities shift, disrupting the flow of running a business."

According to the Kansas Chamber survey, while more than a third of business leaders statewide plan to increase their staffs during



## SURVEY RESULTS



the next year, the quality of the state's workforce is the top issue they face. Nearly half of the survey's 300 respondents are unsatisfied with the available workforce.

### No easy solutions

It is an issue Francis said does not have an easy answer, particularly with COVID-related workforce challenges beginning to ease.

However, the Great Bend Chamber is participating in a workforce connections group made up of individuals from Great Bend Economic Development, KansasWorks, WorkforceONE, Barton Community College, Sunrise Staffing, USD 428 and others, in order to address workforce challenges across the community and beyond.

"There are so many variables to the workforce crisis and only so many things any one of us has control over, but what we can do is help our employers by giving them more tools and resources," Barfield said.

One solution area workforce groups is pursuing is a two-day workforce summit planned for April. Barfield called it a spin-off of past job fairs.

"Sessions will be held on Day One for both employers and job seekers. (This will be) packed with education, resources and keynote speakers. Day Two will be the job fair portion of the summit," she said.

### Taxation another worry

With rising operating costs in so many areas, CHS & Associates President Pat McFerron said the survey shows taxation is also of particular concern to business owners this year.

"Unemployment compensation concerns climbed into double-digits for the first time as an issue for business profitability

because it is seen as a hindrance to people entering the workforce. Limiting the growth of government also is higher than ever and energy costs are the highest since 2013. Ultimately, however, these are all dwarfed by concerns about taxation."

Because of rising consumer good and raw material costs, Barfield said, small businesses particularly are having to shift limited budgets in order to make those budgets stretch farther on less. Because of that, cooperation between policy makers and business organizations is crucial.

"Increased conversations with policy makers and the private sector will and should continue with discussions on how innovative solutions and removing government barriers can help create a business-friendly state," Barfield said. "Supporting a new tax credit for employers who participate in the Kansas Registered Apprenticeship Program would have an impact for education and workforce development."

"The debate about how state government should act to get the economy growing has shifted dramatically. In 2020, it was all about either instituting or not instituting restrictions," said McFerron. "This year the message is clear. Businesses do not want government in the middle of their relationships with their employees as they continue to work to navigate the virus' ongoing impact."

And while COVID concerns among business owners are far less than in last year's survey, Barfield said local businesses still face daily challenges with the virus' impacts to the supply chain, and with staff members out sick with either COVID-19 or Influenza A and B.

Even with that, though, Barfield said elevated retail sales numbers locally indicate businesses have adapted well to the ongoing challenges.

CHS & Associates consulting firm has conducted the Chamber's Annual Business Leaders poll since 2004. The participating businesses reflect company sizes and industry sectors that make up the Kansas business community according to Dun and Bradstreet and are not necessarily members of the Kansas Chamber.

## GREAT BEND REC



### EXPLORE Baseball & Softball

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## Ribbon Cuttings!

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce commemorates the Cottonwood Extension District's new location with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador Club joined the Cottonwood Extension District staff, board members and community at the new Extension Office, 3007 10th Street in Great Bend. Donna Krug, District Director spoke to the group on a frigid Thursday morning for a chamber coffee, ribbon cutting and open house. While the majority of their clientele reside in central Kansas, some programming is shared with other Extension Educators across the country. Drop by 3007 10th Street during business hours; 8 AM- noon and 1 PM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday, call (620)793-1910, or e-mail us at [BT@listserv.ksu.edu](mailto:BT@listserv.ksu.edu). Visit their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page as well as recent newsletters and upcoming programs.

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce celebrates That Hipster Place's new 'place' with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador Club joined Kristie and Jerry Carmichael, owners of That Hipster Place, to celebrate the business moving to their new larger location at 1519 Main in Great Bend. After 3 years at their previous location, the Carmichaels moved That Hipster Place downtown on Main Street. Visit the new store at 1519 Main, their website at [www.thpgifts.com](http://www.thpgifts.com), their [Facebook](#) page, and their [ETSY](#) page. That Hipster Place has a ton of new merchandise that is headlining at the new location, so there's more than just a different location in store for the community.

## Virtual FiberSpace February, 12, 2022

### Zoom Workshop

**Saturday,  
February 12th  
9am – 4pm**

**Program fee: \$10**

**Learn to or improve your fiber spinning, weaving, knitting, or crocheting skills!**

**Spend virtual time with other fiber artists!**

To learn more and to register, visit <https://heartlandfarmks.org/experiencesvirtual-fiberspace-2022/> or call us at 620-923-4585





# WELCOME to Our **NEWEST** Chamber Members

## HEARTLAND DERMATOLOGY & SKIN CANCER CENTER, PA

Stephanie Burkholder,  
Regional Director  
1017-C Jackson Square  
Great Bend, KS  
(620) 792-3666

[www.heartland-derm.com](http://www.heartland-derm.com)

**Health Care**

## WANT TO JOIN THE CHAMBER?

If your company is interested in joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, fill out the online application on our website: [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org). Membership is quick and easy to get started, and it is affordable, too! Lots of networking, marketing, and other services you can benefit from. Sign up to attend one of our Chamber Member Orientation & Marketing Services Seminars. These seminars happen throughout the year.

Sign up on our website:

[www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org)

**JOIN NOW**



1921



YEARS

2021

## More Ribbon Cuttings!

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce celebrates new ownership at Fuller Industries with a Ribbon Cutting



Chamber staff and Ambassador's Club joined Great Bend Economic Development to congratulate Kansas manufacturer Fuller Industries Inc at their ribbon cutting ceremony. In September of 2021, Fuller joined forces with Superior / Sany Solutions. Tim Zimmerman of In-State Business Development Team from the Kansas Department of Commerce was there to celebrate.

## 2022 brings new leadership to BCYP

The Barton County Young Professionals group is a program of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, designed to foster business and social networking among working individuals in the Barton County area.

### What they are about

1. Lead. Developing young leaders in today's workforce.
2. Network. Fostering business and social networking.
3. Volunteer. Providing opportunities to give back to the community.

Anyone who lives in the Barton County area between the ages of 21 and 40(ish) is welcome and encouraged to participate. Members enjoy a variety of monthly events, which rotate between sponsored networking events, lunch-and-learn meetings, leadership events, family socials, and community impact projects.

### Steering Committee

BCYP is a growing group, and is led by a visionary group of local volunteers, representing a variety of business industries and backgrounds. The Steering Committee sets goals on an annual basis, manages funds, and drives program growth. Each Steering Committee member also leads one of the five volunteer action teams. The new slate

of officers and committee members include:

Jay Luerman - Chair, Julie Mazouch - Vice Chair, Addie Axman - Treasurer, Cole Schwarz - Secretary, Richard Ammel, Katie Hales, Kayanna Hammeke, Jeff Kuhlman, Chelsea Morris, Haley Ruble, and Tayler Stegman.

When asked why he is a part of BCYP, Steering Committee Chair, Jay Luerman said, "I moved to Great Bend following my college graduation in May of 2016. I have been fortunate to develop relationships both professionally and personally with my time in Great Bend. I give a lot of credit to the Barton County Young Professional organization for making that opportunity become a reality. The events hosted by BCYP were a stepping stone that molded long lasting friendships with my peers. My goal as a member of the committee is to help the next person, new to town experience the same environment and be able to feel welcome and connected to this great community."

To get involved in BCYP, check out their website: [bartonyp.com](http://bartonyp.com), follow them on Facebook or send your contact information to [bartonyp@gmail.com](mailto:bartonyp@gmail.com).





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

Can't make it in person? Watch on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel

**February 3, 2022**

## **AMBASSADORS CLUB**

**Dry Lake Brewing | 1305 Main Street in Great Bend**

Ambassador Club members assist the Chamber with networking events, ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, and membership recruitment and retention. This group of volunteers allows the Chamber to cultivate business relationships and network with the area's most successful people.

**February 10, 2022**

## **CENTRAL KANSAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

**215 McKinley Street in Great Bend**

Central Kansas Christian Academy is a non-denominational, community Christian school which educates students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. The CKCA community also enjoys a fall basketball season in which students participate with the area Christian league. An important CKCA objective is to provide a well-rounded, faith-based educational experience that includes multiple, grade-level, field trips and other real-life opportunities for learning. The smaller class sizes provide a 10:1 student-teacher ratio, which contributes to higher student success!

**February 17, 2022**

## **CITY OF GREAT BEND**

**Sports Complex | 41 McKinley Street**

The City of Great Bend is pleased to announce the artificial turf project at the sports complex has been completed. Join the Chamber, Ambassadors Club, and the City of Great Bend Administration for a coffee and ribbon cutting celebrating this milestone!

**February 24, 2022**

## **ENCOUNTER CHURCH**

**601 Patton Rd in Great Bend**

Encounter Church extends an invitation to you to be a guest at one of their worship services. When you visit, you will find a welcoming atmosphere as it provides an opportunity to connect with friends old and new, recharge, and expand your personal relationship with God. Encounter Church has been intentional about creating a place for families to grow together through discipleship, and encounter your God given destiny! Join them Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM as they encounter the presence of a living God through worship, available in person or online. Find them on Facebook or YouTube, check out their website for all the information on what to expect when you attend. [www.encounterchurchgb.com](http://www.encounterchurchgb.com)

**March 3, 2022**

## **REH INSURANCE GROUP**

**1121 Washington St. Ste. B**

Reh Insurance Group is an independent insurance agency with locations in Great Bend and Pratt. Michael Carlson and Steve Lunsford bring many years of insurance and customer service experience to the agency. They offer home, renters, liability, auto and life insurance. They have several providers including Allstate, Progressive, Travelers and more, ensuring that they can get you the best deal for your individual situation.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

**McDonald's**

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.



# HIGHLIGHTED FEBRUARY EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

3...Great Bend Senior Center Council Board Meeting, 2005 Kansas Ave., 9:30am

**3...Chamber Coffee: Chamber Ambassador's Club, Dry Lake Brewing 1305 Main St., Doors Open at 9am, Program @9:30am**

**3...Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Sierra Pacific Mortgage, 2015 Forest Ave. Suite 100, 3pm. Join them for an Open house after the Ribbon Cutting!**

4...Great Bend Rec Center Middle School Dance, 2715 18th St., 7pm

5...Kansas Youth Basketball Tournament, Panther Activity Center, 2715 18th St., 8am

5... 17th Annual CASA Chocolate Auction, Great Bend Events Center 3111 10th St., 5:30pm

6...Spring Pickleball Classic Tournament, Panther Activity Center, 2715 18th St., 8am

6...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

8...Great Bend Senior Center Valentines Party – Crowning of King and Queen, 2005 Kansas Ave., 1pm

8...100+ People Who Care Giving Meeting, Best Western, 2920 10th St., 5:30pm

**9...Chamber Member Services & Marketing Seminar, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams St., 8:30am**

**10...Chamber Coffee: Central Kansas Christian Academy, 215 McKinley St., in Great Bend, Doors Open at 9am, Program @9:30am**

11...Great Bend High School Winter Homecoming, 2027 Morton St., 6pm

12...Heartland Farms Virtual Fiber Space Session, Zoom Meeting, 9am

12...Barton County Conversation District 75th Annual Meeting, St. Joseph Parish Center, 110 W. 2nd St., Ellinwood, 5:30pm

13...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

14... USD 428: Parent-Teacher Conferences

14...Community Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, 1400 Main St., 1:30pm

15...Great Bend Senior Center Potluck, 2005 Kansas Ave., 5:30pm

15-28...GB Sign War!!!

**17...Chamber Coffee and Ribbon Cutting: Great Bend Sports Complex, 41 McKinley St., in Great Bend, Doors Open at 9am, Program @9:30am**

17...USD 428, Early dismissal at 11:30, Parent-Teacher Conferences

17...Senior Center Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, 2005 Kansas Ave., 1pm

17-19...Crest Theatre Production: All My Sons, 1905 Lakin Ave., 7:30pm

19...Great Bend High School Hall of Fame Induction, 2027 Morton, 11am

**19...100th Annual Chamber Banquet, Events Center 3111 10th St., 6pm**

20...VFW Post 3111, Sunday Brunch! Open to the public, 504 Washington St., 9:30am

**24...Chamber Coffee: Encounter Church, 601 Patton Rd., in Great Bend, Doors Open at 9am, Program @9:30am**

26...17th Annual Sunflower Diversified Charity Gala, Events Center 3111 10th St., 5:30pm

27...VFW Post 3111, open to the public, 504 Washington St., 11:30am

28...Golden Belt Community Concert – Classic Nashville Roadshow, City Auditorium, 1214 Stone St., 7:30pm

## Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1209 Williams St., 6:30pm

Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Wednesday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am

*Can't make it to the Weekly Chamber Coffee, watch online: [The Chamber's Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#)*

*Visit [greatbend.org/events/calendar](https://greatbend.org/events/calendar) for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!*

# Kiwanis Club of Great Bend flag project changes for 2022

The Kiwanis flag project will be a little different this year. For 2022 we will be placing American flags on the five holidays in two areas of town: the Broadway islands and on McKinley Street along the white fence at Vet's Park. The group anticipates that there will be about 150 flags placed between the two entrances to Vet's Park. Concentrating on these two areas will create an impressive visual impact to the community and allow them to have the manpower to successfully run the project. Flags will not be placed at any residences for 2022.

Kiwanis Club of Great Bend hopes you will still help financially by supporting the

project. There are a couple sponsor levels to participate:

1. General Sponsor \$25-249 – supports the ongoing expenses of the project
2. Pacesetter \$250 – includes real estate size sign with your full color name/logo placed with the flags on the 5 holidays

The funds from this project are used to support many projects aimed at making the community better especially for the youth. The spelling bee, Halloween costume drive, Halloween parade, Easter egg hunt, 2 scholarships for BCC, 2 Aktion



Clubs, donating to the Summer Reading Program at the Great Bend Public Library, Kiwanis Wet/Dry Parade, and Christmas food box delivery are just a sampling of the projects the group does every year along with countless donations to other groups for youth projects and programs.

Your support for the Kiwanis flag project for 2022 is welcomed. Please email [gbkiwanisflags@gmail.com](mailto:gbkiwanisflags@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a sponsor.

**Mission Statement:** Kiwanis is a global organization of

## Interested in becoming a member?

Those interested in becoming a member of the Kiwanis Club of Great Bend, contact Frankie Pelster at 620-617-0085 or Barb Esfeld at 785-483-1384.

Meetings are held at noon every Wednesday at Walnut Bowl's Meeting Room.

[Like them on Facebook!](#)

volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child, one community at a time.

## Dr. Hill offers physician-assisted weight-loss advice, services

Crystal Hill, MD, understands the value of seeking medical advice and treatment while trying to lose those extra pounds.

And now that it's make-or-break time for New Year's resolutions, Dr. Hill wanted to share information about physician-assisted weight loss, which is one of her special interests.

Dr. Hill cares for and treats patients at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, 923 Carroll, and Pawnee Valley Medical Associates, 713 W. 11th, both in Larned.

"I had a weight problem in the past," Dr. Hill said. "I now enjoy helping others learn how to be healthier and lose weight."

As part of her weight-loss regimen, Dr. Hill followed a physician-prescribed diet and took prescribed medications. "I eventually lost and kept off 100 pounds."

The start of a new year is a "very popular time to make a resolution to lose weight," she commented. "When someone is trying



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM  
Pawnee Valley Campus



Crystal Hill, MD

to shed those unwanted pounds, it is always easier if there is accountability.

"For example, we see our patients once a month to keep them accountable for sticking to the diet and exercise plan, as well as taking the prescribed medications."

Dr. Hill's weight-loss services are for men and women who have a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater. The BMI number is 27 for those with chronic medical problems such as diabetes, metabolic syndrome, hypertension or heart disease.

Anyone interested in physician-assisted weight loss can ask about it at their next appointment or wellness check, or schedule an initial consultation.

"We will perform a general exam and

possibly order some lab work," Dr. Hill noted. "There also would be a discussion about diet and exercise, and the possibility of medications and a dietary consultation."

Weight-loss medications can be prescribed for various reasons, including appetite suppression, metabolism issues and insulin regulation.

"Some medications help in more than one of these areas; some focus on brain chemicals," Dr. Hill commented. "Some medications are short-term, around 90 days, and some are used long-term. We will find the right medicine for each individual."

Dr. Hill collaborates with a HaysMed dietitian who comes to Larned regularly.

She also consults with medical professionals who offer bariatric surgery at various locations.

"While every patient is different, our collaboration can lead to the right mix of diet, exercise and treatments," Dr. Hill summarized. "Those with weight issues don't have to fight the battle alone."



## Aster Estates expands services to include end-of-life care

Aster Estates is expanding its services to include end-of-life care by collaborating with the three local and area hospice agencies.

Pam Lewis, owner of Aster Estates and registered nurse, said this new offering is available to anyone who lives at the home-plus residence, 155 NW 10th Ave., just north of the Great Bend city limits on North McKinley.

"This service allows them to stay in the comfort of their home with the support of hospice personnel who are experts in this type of specialized care," Lewis said. "Our professional and compassionate staff collaborates with hospice agencies to offer the best end-of-life care possible."

"Aster Estates and hospice agencies strive to ensure the same nurse and aide care for a resident," Lewis explained. "Caregivers get to know patients' likes and dislikes, which enhances their comfort level."

"The goal is for each person to maintain their quality of life with people they know and trust. Aster Estates offers continuity, comfort and security."

Lewis noted that hospice patients can have family members visit Aster Estates at any time. "Even if someone wants to sleep over to be close to their loved one, we will make arrangements for that to happen," said Lewis, who lives at the home-plus residence.

Hospice care is designed for people who have a life-limiting illness with a life expectancy of up to six months. The patient has chosen to focus on comfort instead of treatment.

Hospice agencies provide registered nurses; certified nurse's aides; medical



Scott Thein, left, Pam Lewis and Frank McKinney discuss the new hospice services at Aster Estates, Great Bend. Thein lives at Aster Estates, Lewis owns the home-plus residence and McKinney is executor of Thein's estate.

equipment; and social workers who help with finances, power of attorney and funeral arrangements. Chaplains also are available for the asking. An RN and case manager conduct an initial evaluation for the patient and family.

"Your family physician is also involved in hospice care," Lewis noted. "We encourage every member of the hospice team to be engaged with your care and treatment."

Once someone qualifies for hospice care, the services are available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

"When we need a hospice representative to be here, all we have to do is call," Lewis said. "I can serve as a liaison between the family and the hospice agency at any time."

In most instances, an RN visits the patient at least twice a week but will come every day when circumstances call for it. Nurse's aides are on a schedule to provide personal care and socialization.

"It is important to underscore that the hospice patient and/or family can call for assistance any time," Lewis said. "They never have to worry about the justification for the call. Maybe you are scared and just need a hand to hold. If you think hospice can help for any reason whatsoever, we will contact them immediately."

## Live Like Jesus Today Ministries Named Winner at 100+ People Who Care

Live Like Jesus Today Ministries is pleased to announce they are the 2021 fourth quarter recipient of the donations of the 100+ People That Care of Barton County group. Founded by Buzz and Clifann Birney on the guiding principles of taking action and looking every day for opportunities to serve, this valuable organization ministers and touches the lives of many here in Barton County and beyond. With the goals of leading by example, growing by serving, seeking God's direction, and working alongside those they minister to, they bring prayer, praise, and worship to many through their "Contagious" Bible Study groups at Barton Community College, prison ministry at Larned Correctional Health Facility, "Gold" teenage girls ministry in Ellinwood, and monthly mission trips to Wichita to work with those in need and alongside Convoy of Hope.



With the over \$11,000 in donations from the 100+ People That Care of Barton County Group, Live Like Jesus Today Ministries was able to minister through the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes and by adopting families for Christmas. They assist families through the local soup kitchen, bring food donations in by covering freight costs, provide gas and hotel expenses for those traveling for doctor visits, and donate bedding and furniture to families in need. Live Like Jesus Today Ministries was also able to provide a warming shelter last winter for Great Bend residents in need.

To learn more about Live Like Jesus Today Ministries, please contact staff at (620) 564-2158, visit their website at [livelikejesustoday.com](http://livelikejesustoday.com), and be sure to like the organization's Facebook page. The next giving meeting for the 100+ People Who Care group will be held on Tuesday, February 8th, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., at the Best Western Angus Inn Courtyard. At that time, representatives from Live Like Jesus Today Ministries will return to provide an update on how they have been utilizing their donation. Members will also vote to select and nominate local, charitable organizations to receive future funds. More details can be found on the group's website, [www.100bartoncounty.org](http://www.100bartoncounty.org), or on their [Facebook page](#).



# Mental-health pilot program succeeds; more funding needed locally

A few years ago, the leaders of Stafford Schools USD 349 believed some of their students could benefit from a state-sponsored pilot program geared to youngsters with mental-health issues.

Turns out, they were right.

The Stafford school district is in its third year of participation in the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) project. It is one of several districts that became involved during the infancy of the program, which has shown positive results, said Wendy Lockwood, program development director at The Center for Counseling & Consultation in Great Bend.

Locally, MHIT is a partnership between the Stafford Schools and The Center, which serves Stafford, Barton, Pawnee and Rice counties.

Statewide, the program allows school districts and community mental health centers to address challenges that are part of everyday life for some young people. Services are provided on-site at the schools.

It all began in 2018 but is now experiencing some growing pains in Stafford.

"The state didn't add funding to expand this year – neither for the school or for The Center," Lockwood explained. "The funding remained at the previous allocation but we need more staff to meet the ever-growing needs."

The Legislature determines the funding from year to year and will probably discuss it in the upcoming legislative session, Lockwood noted.

"This program has been extremely successful in Stafford and other school districts around the state," she said. "It provides a way for us to identify needs and address them – even during the summer and other breaks from school."

Statewide statistics indicate that more than 70 percent of the students improved their school attendance; more than 71 percent improved their behavior at school; and more than 69 percent improved their academics.

"These are remarkable numbers and we must continue meeting students' needs, which don't vanish when funding isn't there," Lockwood said. "The needs just go un-met, which leaves the schools with more challenges."

The Center provides therapists and a case manager, while working closely with the school liaison. Services include case management, psycho-social groups and therapy sessions.

"Case management provides behavioral-health intervention and helps with social skills

that are age appropriate," Lockwood noted. "Services help children and families with behavior challenges that can impact the learning environment. Support with managing behavioral disruptions in the classroom also is offered."

The Stafford liaison is Destiny Johnson, social worker, for pre-k toddlers up to high school seniors.

"We could not have asked for a better partner than Destiny Johnson," Lockwood commented. "Stafford has been ideal to work with; we have a very strong partnership."

As of mid-December, 49 Stafford students have been involved in MHIT in one way or another. Thirty-three are now actively involved. The population of the district is about 227.

"It is evident that MHIT is needed because most of the students have shown improvement in at least one area of concern, which enables them to be successful inside and outside the classroom," Johnson said.

"But, we have a significant portion of our population with high needs.

"For example, many live in poverty, and have traumatic backgrounds, mental-health concerns or challenging behaviors. With all of these concerns, we recognized that we needed support inside the school."

These are the reasons the school district applied for the MHIT grant a few years ago.

Even though the Stafford program has reported a lot of success, "it continues to be a struggle to adequately serve the number of students that could benefit," Johnson said. "With the combination of high needs and current staff shortages, it has been difficult for The Center to obtain and retain qualified personnel.

"The shortages make it especially difficult for them to designate more case managers or therapists solely to our schools."

The district has Johnson and one counselor to address mental-health issues. "We do our best to serve our kids but it is easy to get bogged down. We do a lot, and yet, it is not enough to fill the needs."

Johnson also noted that MHIT breaks down barriers for families by providing on-site access to services.

"These families desperately need the support they receive from the school and The Center. They would not be able to receive this support if they had to find information on their own or travel to other towns for appointments," she explained. "MHIT allows much easier access to services, which is crucial for success."



## Mother of three recommends mental-health program

Amanda Wells' three children were having a difficult time with anxiety, depression and other concerns. Some of those concerns have been alleviated thanks to the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) program at Stafford Schools USD 349 and The Center for Counseling & Consultation in Great Bend.

(See adjacent story for more information.)

"My kids have gone through a lot of issues in our single-parent home," Wells said. "They have been in the program at school for two years and I would recommend it to other parents who have concerns about their children's mental health and negative behaviors.

"In addition to anxiety and depression, one of my girls has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and Oppositional Defiant Disorder," Wells said. "The program has helped her come out of her shell and learn how to treat her peers.

"She had been defiant and wouldn't listen to anyone," she continued. "The program helps her today and will help her in the long run too."

The other two children, who have anxiety and depression, see a counselor and case manager weekly.

"They also have group sessions," Wells noted. "This has allowed them to socialize and interact better with their peers. They are a lot better, thanks to the program."

Wells also pointed out that her son recently lost his 33-year-old dad to COVID. "The case manager has really been helping my son. I am very thankful for this program; it helps my kids get through the day."



# LEARNING IN MOTION

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022  
Barton Community College  
245 NE 30 RD  
Great Bend, Kansas  
\$25

**BARTON**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD

## *Schedule for the Day*

8:15 a.m.

**Final Registration** - Fine Arts Building

8:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

**Breakout Session A**

STEM for Babies and Toddlers by Ashley Webster (2KDHE)

The Best Exercise for the Brain is Exercise by Beth Reeder (2KDHE)

Positive Supports for Challenging Behaviors by Kim Specht (2KDHE)

10:50 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**Pre-Lunch Presentation for All**

The Benefits of Movement Not Only Physically But Socially Emotionally (1KDHE )

11:50 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

**Lunch**

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Breakout Session B**

I Smell Something Burning . . . Is It Me? by Beth Reeder (2KDHE)

Let Them Be Little and Watch Them Grow by Kim Specht (2KDHE pending)

Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication by Rachel Jury (2KDHE)

*To secure your spot, return the registration below with payment by February 18<sup>th</sup> to Teri Smith,  
Workforce Training & Economic Development, 245 NE 30 RD, Great Bend, KS 67530.  
email: [smithte@bartonccc.edu](mailto:smithte@bartonccc.edu) or call (620) 792-9255.*

## *Learning in Motion Registration Form*

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete form and return with payment (Check or Cash only.) Credit Card payment can only be taken the day of the event at registration. Teri Smith, Barton Community College, Workforce Training & Economic Development,  
245 NE 30 Road, Great Bend, KS 67530.*

## **Breakout Session A Descriptions**

### **STEM for Babies and Toddlers** (2KDHE)

*Ashley Webster*

What is STEM? This presentation provides an overview of developmentally appropriate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning for babies and toddlers. A review of brain basics, cognitive development and the importance of play is included.

### **The Best Exercise for the Brain is Exercise** (2KDHE)

*Beth Reeder*

Gain knowledge about how best to handle those high-energy kids with intentional movement. The Brain Smart Start principles by Dr. Becky Bailey will be referred to and used during the session.

### **Positive Supports for Challenging Behaviors**(2KDHE)

*Kim Specht*

Participants will engage in positive behavior intervention activities that can be used immediately in early childhood settings. Participants will also reflect on their self-regulation process and how it impacts their interactions with children's behaviors.

## **Breakout Session B Descriptions**

### **I Smell Something Burning . . . Is It Me?** (2KDHE)

*Beth Reader*

Being an Early Childhood Professional is hard work.... how can we take care of ourselves and avoid burnout. Focusing on what might be causing our burnout and how best to take care of ourselves in healthy ways.

### **Let Them Be Little and Watch Them Grow**

*Kim Specht* (2KDHE pending)

Engage in guided activities to promote and understand the critical role play has in early childhood education. Explore structured and unstructured play while enhancing your learning through play.

### **Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication** (2KDHE)

*Rachel Jury*

This training focuses on ways that early childhood educators can partner with families to understand and respond to children's behavior as communication.

## **Presenters Information**

**Rachel Jury, B.S.** has been working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families/caregivers for over 15 years. She received her BS degree in Elementary Education from Kansas Wesleyan University and continued coursework to gain her emphasis in Early Childhood Education.

Rachel's professional experiences are characterized by a combination of working directly with children while also utilizing coaching practices for adult learners.



**Beth Reeder** is an energetic early childhood advocate that presents at many EC events across Kansas. Beth's objective is to provide quality programming and training to children and families while supporting the staff that works with them.



**Kim Specht, M.S.** is an early childhood behavior specialist with 25 years of early childhood experience. Kim has a Master's of Science in Elementary Education and has endorsements in the area of Reading Specialist, Early Childhood, Early Childhood Unified, and ESL. Kim's is also a Certified Autism Specialist plus adjunct faculty at Southwestern College and Barton Community College.



**Ashley M. Webster, M.S.** has been working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families for over 17 years. She received her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and her master's degree in Early Childhood Education, both from Kansas State University. Ashley's professional experiences are characterized by the combination of working directly with children, families, direct care ECE workers and ECE supervisors.





BARTON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



**SATURDAY, MARCH 12**

**\$ 25 EARLY BIRD TICKETS | EXPO 1 | 6 PM**

**JOIN BCYP FOR OUR ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT CELEBRATION.  
TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW .CORPORATE TABLES  
ARE AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP AND EMPLOYEE PERKS!**

**SPONSORED BY FIRST KANSAS BANK.**

SEE THE BCYP FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS  
AND TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS.



# virtual STATEWIDE JOB FAIR

**FEBRUARY 16-17**

The job fair will begin at 8am on February 16 and end at 5pm on February 17.

**FIND  
YOUR  
NEXT  
EMPLOYEE!**

## **EMPLOYER REGISTRATION IS OPEN:**

<https://bit.ly/3mtC8G5>

Email the contact person for your area with questions

### **Western and Central Kansas**

Tucky Allen, [Tucky@KansasWorkforceOne.org](mailto:Tucky@KansasWorkforceOne.org)

### **Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan, Junction City and Surrounding Areas**

Curtis Jones, [Curtis.Jones@ks.gov](mailto:Curtis.Jones@ks.gov)

### **Kansas City Metro**

Roberta Rowland, [RobertaR@WorkforcePartnership.com](mailto:RobertaR@WorkforcePartnership.com)

### **Wichita area and South Central Kansas**

George Marko, [GMarko@Workforce-ks.com](mailto:GMarko@Workforce-ks.com)

### **Southeast Kansas**

Jim Jenkins, [JJenkins@sekworks.org](mailto:JJenkins@sekworks.org)

**UPCOMING DATES FOR  
FUTURE STATEWIDE JOB FAIRS:  
MAY 18-19, 2022**



Any individual with a disability may request accommodations by contacting 877-509-6757 prior to the event.

# virtual STATEWIDE JOB FAIR

**FEBRUARY 16-17**

The job fair will begin at 8am on February 16 and end at 5pm on February 17.

**FIND  
YOUR  
NEW  
JOB!**

**JOB SEEKER PRE-REGISTRATION IS OPEN:**

<https://bit.ly/3mtC8G5>

Registration is required for each job fair

## DETAILS



### WHO

Employers from across the state will be hiring



### LIVE CHAT

Job seekers will have the opportunity to live chat and interview virtually with employers as the employers schedule allows, please dress professionally



### CONNECT

Job seekers can join via computer, smart phone or tablet



**UPCOMING DATES FOR  
FUTURE STATEWIDE JOB FAIRS:  
MAY 18-19, 2022**



Any individual with a disability may request accommodations by contacting 877-509-6757 prior to the event.

# feria virtual DE EMPLEO ESTATAL

**16 al 17 de FEBRERO**

La feria de empleo comienza a las 8:00am el 16 de Febrero y termina a las 5:00pm el 17 de Febrero.

**ENCUENTRA  
TU PRÓXIMO  
EMPLEADO!**

**REGISTRACION PARA EMPLEADOR ESTA ABIERTO EN:**

**<https://bit.ly/3mtC8G5>**

Enviar correo electrónico a la persona en su area para preguntas

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**PRÓXIMAS FECHAS PARA FUTURAS  
FERIAS DE EMPLEO ESTATAL:  
18 al 19 de MAYO, 2022**



A proud partner of the [americanjobcenter](#) network

*Cualquier individuo con una discapacidad puede solicitar adaptaciones contactando al 877-509-6757 antes de el evento.*



# feria virtual DE EMPLEO ESTATAL

16 al 17 de FEBRERO

La feria de empleo comienza a las 8:00am el 16 de Febrero y termina a las 5:00pm el 17 de Febrero.

ENCUENTRA  
TU NUEVO  
EMPLEO

PREREGISTRACION PARA SOLICITANTE DE EMPLEO ESTA ABIERTO EN:

<https://bit.ly/3mtC8G5>

El registrarse es requerido para cada feria de empleo

## DETALLES



### QUIEN

Empleadores de todo el estado estaran ocupando



### CHATEANDO EN VIVO

Solicitantes de empleo tendran la oportunidad de chatear en vivo y de entrevistarse virtualmente con empleadores segun lo permitan los empleadores, favor de vestir profesionalmente



### CONECTAR

Solicitantes de empleo podra unirse por computadora, telefono inteligente o tableta

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS PARA FUTURAS  
FERIAS DE EMPLEO ESTATAL:  
18 al 19 de MAYO, 2022



**KANSASWORKS**

A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network

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