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# OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## 2019 Board of Directors Set, Executive Officers Elected

With the changing of the calendar year comes a change in leadership and new goals for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Board of Directors. — Continued on Page 2



AJ Chrest,  
2019 Board Chair



Pete Wesner,  
2nd Vice Chair



Taylor Dirks,  
Treasurer



Taylor Calcara,  
Past Chair



Glenna Achatz



Haley Acker



Todd Armatys



Rob Bauer



Gaila Demel



Logan Garrett



Casey Harbour



Diann Henderson



Julie Kramp



Teresa Mazouch



Troy McFarren



Shelly Peacock



Jon Prescott



Jerry Renk



Lacey Schofield



Julie Spray



Rick Taylor



Curtis Wolf

### Ex-Officio

Khris Thexton  
USD 428

Jennifer Schartz  
Barton County

Dr. Carl Heilman  
BCC

Christina Hayes  
Visitors Bureau

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Kansas Legislature

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# 2019 Board of Directors

— Continued from Page 1

While the main areas of focus for the Chamber remain Advocacy for Business, Marketing & Promotion, Investment in the Future & Member Services, new initiatives or goals seem to emerge based on the leadership of the executive committee to tackle issues or enhance the Chamber's role in the community. The Chamber embarks on each New Year with optimism and excitement for what new programs or services might emerge for their members.

The 2019 Executive Committee will be made up of AJ Chrest (Aflac) as Chairperson, Pete Wesner (CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions) as 2nd Vice Chair, Taylor Calcara (Watkins Calcara Chtd.) as Immediate Past Chairman, and Taylor Dirks (Adams Brown Beran & Ball) as Treasurer.

In addition, the Chamber welcomes nine new members to its diverse board, representing a wide range of industries and backgrounds. Beginning three-year terms are Glenna Achatz (Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate), Rob Bauer (Bauer, Pike, Bauer, Wary & Carroll LLC), Logan Garrett (G-B Tire, Inc.), Julie Kramp (The Center for Counseling), Troy McFarren (Haz-Mat Response), Shelly Peacock (TCI Answering Service), and Jerry Renk (American State Bank). Representing the Chamber Ambassadors in 2019 is Curtis Wolf (Kansas Wetlands Education Center), and representing Barton County Young Professionals is Haley Acker (Fuller Industries).

Continuing their service on the board is Todd Armatys (Edward Jones), Gaila Demel (UWCK), Casey Harbour (WATCO), Diann Henderson (Great Bend Rec Commission), Teresa Mazouch (Wheatland Electric), Jon Prescott (Sunflower Diversified Services), Lacey Schofield (Best Western Angus Inn), Julie Spray (The Fieldhouse), and Rick Taylor (Nex-Tech). Ex-Officio board members are Khristen Thexton (Great Bend Public Schools), Jennifer Schartz (Barton County Commission), Dr. Carl Heilman (Barton Community College), Christina Hayes (Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau), and Tory Arnberger (Kansas Legislature). Another ex-officio seat will be occupied by a Great Bend City Council member once that representative has been selected after the new year.

The Chamber also looks forward to recognizing the service and dedication of their retiring board members at the 97th Annual Chamber Banquet scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd. Volunteers who have finished their terms on the board of directors include Aaron Andrews (MPIRE Realty Group), Rebecca Ford (Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas), Scie Murray (Murray Chiropractic Center), and Nancy Sundahl (Mary Kay Cosmetics).

See the complete listing of Chamber Board and Staff on our website: [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org).

## GET YOUR BANQUET TICKETS

**Join us for the 97th Annual Meeting & Banquet Feb. 23**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development is proud to present the 97th Annual Chamber Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 23rd. Last year's theme, "The Art of Community," continues this year, but will feature and celebrate the performing arts, as opposed to the visual arts previously displayed.

This popular annual social event and celebration will start off with cocktails and a social hour, followed by a catered steak dinner, and then the special recognition of community award winners. But enhancing the well-known lineup of programming will be live performances and acts sprinkled throughout the evening, featuring local talent such as Bryan Pinkall, Grammy-winning soloist and chorister with the Kansas City Chorale.

Join us as we come together and celebrate, "The Art of Community," and announce the recipients of the Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and NextGen Leader of the Year.

Invitations to this year's Banquet have been mailed out, and reservations can be made online at any time. Visit [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org) to reserve your table or purchase individual tickets. Or, feel free to stop by the Chamber office, 1125 Williams, on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



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# BCC Nursing Graduate Reflects on Rewarding Early Career; Nursing Program Application Deadline Jan. 31

When Director of Nursing Robert Mangold walks into work at the University of Kansas Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus, he's not just trading his time for a paycheck, dealing with the daily grind. He's beginning yet another shift in a role that challenges him to be present for others as the best human being he can be, showing care, compassion and empathy mixed with just the right amount of professionalism.

"One of the best feelings is going home and knowing you've helped someone or helped save a life," he said. "My day-to-day most rewarding experience is seeing patients happy and family members happy, knowing that myself and my team of nursing staff are providing good care and making sure we're taking care of our community."

Keeping that level of quality care, he added, takes dedication, patience and self care, especially when dealing with the death of a patient or helping them with a traumatic injury. "That can take an emotional toll on you," he said. "But the staff here is like a family. It's not just work, it's coming to a place where you know you're going to be cared for."

The role suits Mangold; when meeting him for the first time, it might seem as though he has always been a nurse, but like anyone he started out unsure what to do with himself.

After graduating from Greeley County High School in 2007, he started out at Wichita State University with "undecided health professions" as his declared major. He eventually landed on nursing as his chosen path. "It's a great career if you're looking for something long term and just enjoy caring for people," he said. "There's unlimited possibilities of different specializations and schooling you can continue to pursue. You're never really going to be without a job. There's always going to be a need for nurses."

He looked at a few nursing programs in Kansas once he figured out what he wanted, and said Barton stood out to him. He earned his Licensed Practical Nurse Certificate in 2014 and his associate degree in Nursing in 2015. "The instructors made it a good experience," he said. "It's a good school. They make it feel like a community, like you're in a small hometown, and they want you to succeed."

After Barton, he transferred to Wichita State University and finished his bachelor's degree in May of 2018. He racked up a lot of experience in a few short years by working while attending school. Mangold has spent time in emergency rooms, helping with surgery, outpatient nursing and more. As a Director of Nursing, Mangold is now focused on doing what he can for the KU Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus, but he said he'll never stop learning. His next goal is to eventually earn his master's degree in nursing.

While there are more men pursuing nursing than before, it's still a field predominantly populated by women. Mangold said that comes with its own set of challenges, but it's an afterthought to him. "Caring for somebody is a gender neutral role," he said. "It doesn't matter if you're a male or female as long as you can provide that care, that's all that really matters."

Applications to start in Barton's nursing program in the fall of 2019 are due January 31. For more information or to request an application, visit [nursing.bartonccc.edu](http://nursing.bartonccc.edu) or contact Director of Nursing and Healthcare Education Kathy Kottas at (620) 792-9355 or [kottask@bartonccc.edu](mailto:kottask@bartonccc.edu).

## Medical Assistant

In addition to nursing, Barton offers several other healthcare professional training options, including Medical Assistant. Medical Assistants are multi-skilled individuals trained to assist physicians, work in a medical clinic and areas of hospitals or laboratories. They measure and record vital signs, take medical histories, administer medications, sterilize instruments, assist with minor surgeries, handle emergencies, obtain blood samples, perform routine lab procedures, x-ray preparation and more.

A career can be built as a medical assistant, or it can be a versatile launchpad into many other healthcare professions. For more information about Barton's Medical Assistant program, visit [medassistant.bartonccc.edu](http://medassistant.bartonccc.edu) or contact Program Instructor & Coordinator Kim Brennan at (620) 792-9326 or [brennank@bartonccc.edu](mailto:brennank@bartonccc.edu).



## Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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Taylor Calcara, Watkins Calcara Chtd.

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Taylor Dirks, Adams Brown Beran & Ball

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Fuller Industries / Barton County Young Professionals

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### Rick Taylor

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### Curtis Wolf

Kansas Wetlands Education Center / Ambassador Club

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Christina Hayes, Great Bend CVB

Jennifer Schartz, Barton County Commission

Dr. Carl Heilman, Barton Community College

Khris Thexton, USD #428

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## Signe Cook Named Teacher of the Year for Kansas

A winner in every sense of the word, Signe Cook, a fifth-grade teacher at Park Elementary School, was honored as one of eight finalists from across the state at the annual Kansas Teacher of the Year (KTOY) awards presentation held on Saturday, November 17 in Wichita, KS. While Cook was not the top recipient, being named a finalist on the 2019 KTOY Team is a significant honor and provides ample opportunity to share her passion for teaching and influence the future of education in Kansas.

"I am honored to be a part of the 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team," said Cook. "The team is comprised of the best of the best, representing all the hardworking and amazing teachers across the state. In the year ahead, I am excited to use my voice to advocate in a positive way for the teachers and students of Kansas."

As a member of the 2019 KTOY Team, Cook will spend time this spring visiting her team members' school districts, as well as traveling to all 25 colleges in Kansas to talk with pre-service teachers. "Each member of the team will have a different message and focus when visiting with the college students," said Cook. "I will focus on teaching to the whole child, building relationships and creating a positive environment in which students can learn."

Cook has been a teacher at Park Elementary School for three years. She has also taught in a number of Kansas communities including Fowler, Junction City, Dighton, Lakin, Horton, and Winchester for a combined 20 years. Cook is one of only three teachers from USD 428 to be named a finalist since the award program began in 1992. Crystal Cross was named a finalist in 2000, followed by Joyce Anschutz in 2005.

If you are interested in following Mrs. Cook and the 2019 KTOY Team's journey, connect with the Facebook page "2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team" or on Twitter @KTOY2019 or Instagram @ktoy2019.



## Year in Review from United Way of Central Kansas

Looking back over the past year, United Way of Central Kansas is grateful for each and every member of the community who donated, participated in, or volunteered to be a part of the United Way Campaign. The success of each program that UWCK sponsors, is because of donations and sponsorships from individuals and businesses and the time that amazing volunteers donate.

January and February were full of hearts and love with the Box of Love Program (which is currently underway for 2019). Working with UWCK Community Partners, Valentine's Day boxes were delivered with love to more than 200 homebound seniors in Barton and Pawnee Counties. March, April, and May were all about literacy. Board members read to daycare and preschool students to celebrate Dr. Seuss Day and delivered Literacy Kits to over 300 Pre-K students at Kindergarten round-ups across our area.

In June and July, UWCK wrapped up the prior campaign and began work on the next. Pacesetter companies were recognized with an Awards Luncheon to thank them for all they do to support UWCK throughout the year. The 2019 Campaign kicked off in August with the annual Kickoff Event, followed by a roadshow of Chamber Coffees in Hoisington, Great Bend, and Larned. In partnership with USD 355 in Ellinwood, UWCK hosted tailgate at the first Ellinwood High School home football game. UWCK also provided donuts and water at the Hoisington Touch-A-Truck event during Labor Day festivities.

United Way of Central Kansas looks forward to continuing their efforts into 2019 and encourages everyone to reach out with questions and concerns. UWCK is here to serve the needs of the community, with 99% of all monies donated staying right here in the communities they serve.



## HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JANUARY

- 3... Chamber Connect on KVGB 1590AM or 97.7FM @ 11:30a.m.
- 3... **Chamber Coffee: Barton Co. Area Habitat for Humanity, Chamber Board Room, 1125 Williams St., Program @9:30am**
- 4... Adult's Night Out Movie, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams St @ 7p.m.
- 6... Caregivers Count Support Group, First Christian Church, 5230 Broadway Ave. @2pm
- 8... Dine for Dolly at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers, 3008 10th St, all day
- 9... **Chamber Member Services Seminar, 1125 Williams St. @10am**
- 10... **Chamber Coffee: Hiss Sherman Wealth / Behrends Tax, 2001 Broadway Ave., Program @9:30am**
- 10... **Ribbon Cutting: On the Rocks Liquor Store, 4010 10th St. @9am**
- 11... **BCYP Networking Mixer: Animal Medical Center, 622 McKinley St. @6pm**
- 12... Central Kansas Health & Wellness Expo, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St., from 8am-3pm
- 12... What is Human Trafficking?, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams St. @2pm
- 15... Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, 1300 Kansas Ave #B, @ 11a.m.
- 17... **Chamber Coffee: Central Kansas CASA, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 3821 10th St., Program @9:30am**
- 19... Fiber Space at Heartland Farm, 1049 CR 390, Pawnee Rock @9am
- 19... Icy Sidewalk Sale, participating businesses across Great Bend
- 19... Barton County's Got Flavor, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St. @6:30pm
- 20... Retirement Celebration for Beverly Komarek, Barton County Historical Society, 85 Hwy 281 @2pm
- 24... **Chamber Coffee: Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd., 2006 Broadway Ave., Program @9:30am**
- 31... **Chamber Coffee: maurices, 3511 10th St., Program @9:30am**
- 31... **Chamber After Hours: American State Bank, 1321 Main St. from 5-7pm**

### Recurring events:

- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St, 6:30p.m.
- Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9a.m.

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

## Save the Date - Chamber After Hours Event Jan. 31 Hosted by American State Bank, 1321 Main Street

Join us on Thursday, January 31st, as American State Bank, located at 1321 Main St., hosts the first Chamber After Hours of 2019! Jerry Renk and his staff will open up their doors to us from 5-7p.m. with an evening of prizes, beer and wine, and some great food. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



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## First Ever Health & Wellness Expo Jan. 12

The first Central Kansas Health & Wellness Expo is scheduled Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street. Admission will be free to the public thanks to the financial support of the vendors.

"This event is designed to bring awareness to our community of the resources available on health, medicine, nutrition, finances, assisted living, pets and so much more," said Mary Hoisington, publisher of the Great Bend Tribune which is sponsoring the expo. "There are many new and cutting edge technologies as well as new approaches to help us improve our lifestyles and health. We want to give people the tools they need to meet their personal and family financial and wellness goals."

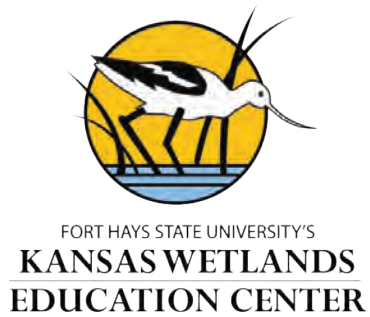
"Hosting a health and wellness event in Great Bend is a really exciting prospect for the Events Center," said Christina Hayes, Great Bend community coordinator and event host. "This is the first event of this type in our area in a very long time."

Vendors and attendees will have the opportunity to interact, Hoisington said. In addition, vendors have the opportunity to present on topics concerning the health and wellness of our community.

Besides having booths and presentations for men and women, the expo will be family friendly. A companion glossy magazine is part of the overall marketing campaign to allow vendors to provide more detailed information about their organization as well as the products and services available in our area.

Contact Renee Richmeier at 620-792-1211 for more information on how a business or organization can take part in the Central Kansas Health & Wellness Expo.





## Making Education a Fun Experience for Visitors at Cheyenne Bottoms

Since Cheyenne Bottoms is “the reason we are here,” it didn’t take long for the leaders of the Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWECC) to find their niche, Director Curtis Wolf said. “In the beginning, it was such a unique concept,” Wolf noted. “When it first opened, no one was really sure of what direction we would go. After all, we are in the middle of nowhere and it is difficult to compare us with nature centers in urban areas.

“However, we knew we needed a nature center for visitors to get more out of the Cheyenne Bottoms experience. This was the niche we fell into – promoting Cheyenne Bottoms locally and zeroing in on school field trips.”

That focus on children seems to have been a smart move. “We are seeing the dividends of those early programs,” Wolf explained. “The kids are older now and they are returning.”

He also noted that KWECC has great relationships with all the schools in Barton County – public and private. The facility also accommodates other students within about a 75-mile radius.

KWECC, 592 NE K-156 Highway, opened in April 2009 and Wolf came on board in July that year. He brought with him a lifetime of experiences in hunting, fishing and camping. He earned a bachelor’s in wildlife and fisheries biology and a master’s in biology, both from Fort Hays State University (FHSU).

Recently, KWECC became home to new exhibits that help tell the Cheyenne Bottoms story in innovative ways. “But these exhibits didn’t change our goals,” Wolf commented. “Those goals are to explain the wetlands and their importance, and to display the plant and animal life. We want people to understand the story of Cheyenne Bottoms, including its history. The way we do this has changed but the goals haven’t.”

The Koch Foundation funded the original exhibits, while the Dorothy M. Morrison Foundation financed the recent project that includes new exhibits and the remodeling to accommodate them. Private donations are always welcome. “The original exhibits were text-based and shared a lot of good information. But they were not interactive,” Wolf noted. “The new exhibits are interactive and can be easily changed. This is much better use of our limited space.”

New exhibits include a floor projection system that displays a wetland and the animals that live there. Visitors can ‘catch’ the animals as they listen to an audio narration. In addition, an augmented reality watershed sandbox simulates water drainage and illustrates what happens in the Cheyenne Bottoms Basin. The children’s Wetland Activity Center is where “you can build a bird,” Wolf said. “It is so diverse here. We don’t use a classroom format and another priority is getting kids outside.”



Wolf refers to the KWECC staff as the backbone of its 700 on-site and outreach programs and the facility’s contacts with a total of 24,000 people annually. Of that total 8,000 are drops ins, 14,000 participate in educational offerings and 2,000 are at trade-show booths.

Pam Martin, education specialist, and Mandy Kern, program specialist, are “two of the most dedicated people I have ever met,” Wolf said. “They are passionate about environmental education.”

Linda Penner, administrative assistant, is the face of KWECC for visitors, and Jim Bowman keeps everything working in his maintenance role. Four FHSU graduate students in biology help out part-time. “All of these people do a phenomenal job,” Wolf said.

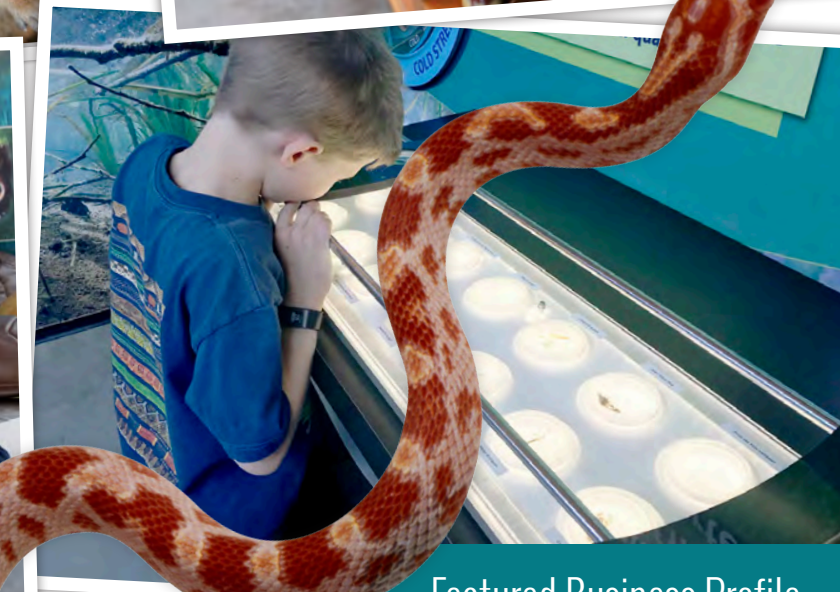
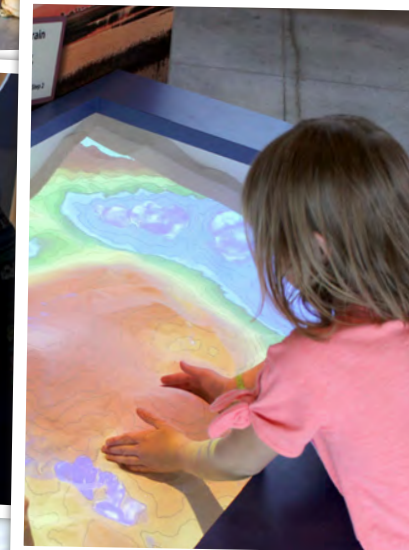
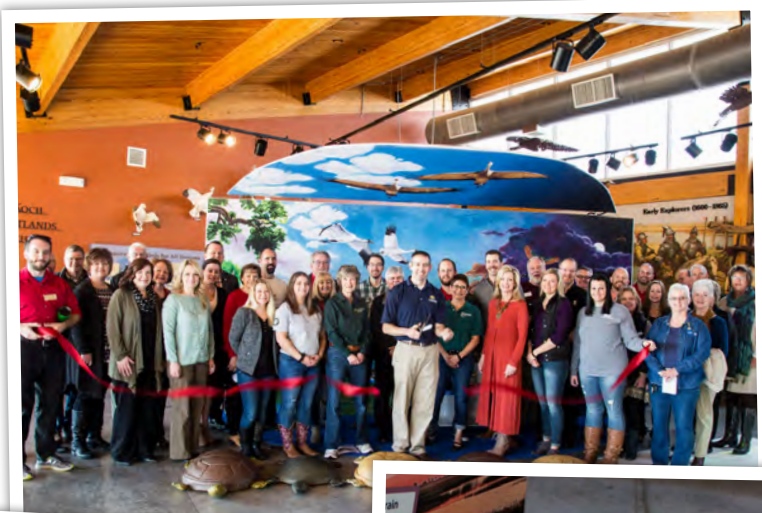
From April 1 to Oct. 31, hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. From Nov. 1 to March 31, hours are the same, except KWECC is closed Mondays. It is also closed on major holidays. Admission is free and the auditorium is available for about 50 people after hours by reservation. The facility also includes a gift shop, complete with Kansas souvenirs and locally made art sold on consignment.

FHSU manages KWECC, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism.

Wolf noted KWECC is attractive for all ages and encouraged the community to learn about Cheyenne Bottoms, which is a Wetlands of International Importance. The facility is within the 20,000 acres of the state wildlife area; total acreage reaches 41,000 when Cheyenne Bottoms is included.

Many local organizations and entities are important partners with KWECC. “This resource is right in our own backyard,” the director said. “No one else in the United States can say that. Almost daily, we see Barton County people who have never been here before and we want to attract more from our own backyard.

“Cheyenne Bottoms is often referred to as a ‘hidden jewel.’ But I don’t know why it is still hidden,” Wolf commented. “It baffles me that we take it for granted. We need the buy-in from local and area people including outdoor enthusiasts, birdwatchers, hunters, nature photographers and those with more general interests.”





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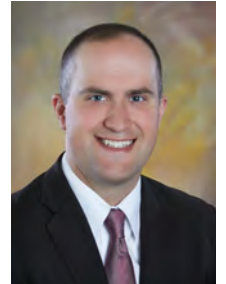


## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE HIRINGS & PROMOTIONS AROUND TOWN

### Great Bend Native Returns Home as Family Medicine Physician

Through much of his pre-med curriculum and medical school, Jonathan Pike, MD, thought about eventually caring for patients in his hometown. And it just so happened that the timing is right for Dr. Pike to fulfill that dream. He recently joined The University of Kansas Health System Family Medicine at 1309 Polk St. in Great Bend. (Its former name was Central Kansas Family Practice.)

"I was just finishing up my residency in family medicine and this great opportunity opened up," said Dr. Pike, who is accepting new patients. "Great Bend has always been home, and this was clearly the right choice for me."



He also noted that he made the right decision by concentrating on family medicine. "I have the privilege of building relationships with each generation of families – from delivering babies to caring for newborns to end-of-life care and everything in between," he said. "This is what drew me to family medicine."

Dr. Pike joins colleagues Perry Smith, MD, Jeff Brozek, MD, Teri Turkle-Huslig, MD, Charles Keener, MD, Stanley Hatesohl, MD, Gina Westhoff, physician assistant, and Elise Snapp, advanced practice registered nurse. One of the physicians is always on call.

Dr. Pike is a 2006 graduate of Great Bend High School, where he played on the 2005 and 2006 5A state championship basketball teams. His parents still live in Great Bend. In 2008, Dr. Pike earned an associate degree in liberal studies at Barton Community College and two years later he received his bachelor's degree in biology from Kansas State University. Dr. Pike earned his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2015. He completed his residency and postgraduate training at Via Christi Health in Wichita a few months ago.

Dr. Pike is accepting new patients. Family medicine appointments can be scheduled by calling 620-792-5341.

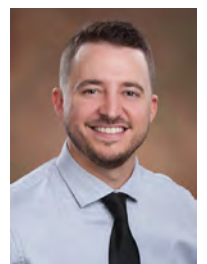
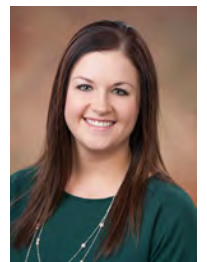
### Clara Barton Hospital Welcomes Bieberles to Healthcare Team

Clara Barton Hospital and Clinics is pleased to announce the addition of both Taylor Bieberle, PA-C and Natalie Bieberle, DPT as the newest members of the Clara Barton healthcare team. Taylor has joined the staff at Clara Barton Medical Clinic as a Physician Assistant and Natalie has joined the Therapy Services staff as their newest Physical Therapist.

The Bieberles both grew up in Claflin, Kansas where they graduated from Claflin High School. Taylor attended the University of Idaho to play tennis. He graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Minor in Business. He then went on to receive his Masters of Physician Assistant Studies from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston where he graduated in 2017.

Natalie attended Kansas State University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. She continued her education at the University of Kansas Medical Center where she completed her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2016.

The Bieberles both previously worked at Norton County Hospital, but recently moved back to their hometown community of Claflin. "We are very excited to welcome the Bieberles back home," said Clara Barton President/CEO, Jim Blackwell.



In their spare time, the Bieberles enjoy spending time with family, playing with their dog, Briggs, golfing, and watching Chiefs football. "Both Taylor and Natalie come to us with a remarkable set of skills and experience and have been a wonderful addition to our staff," said Blackwell. "Their presence here at Clara Barton solidifies the clinical excellence provided by our medical team."

## GREAT BEND FARM & RANCH EXPO 8TH ANNUAL



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April 10th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 11th 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

April 12th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## ElderCare Kicks Off New Sponsored Meal Program

A Christmas feast served at all Barton County Senior Centers kicked off the 2019 ElderCare Inc. meal-sponsorship program, with four local businesses leading the way. The first businesses to jump on board were Hiss Sherman Wealth Management, MPIRE Companies, Marmie Auto Group, and Brentwood Builders. “We can’t tell you how much we appreciate these community leaders,” said Brandi Gruber, ElderCare executive director. “They helped us lay the groundwork for seeking other sponsors that will provide nutritious meals for our senior citizens. The seniors who attended our special event were very surprised and thankful for the sponsored meals. All of us at ElderCare are excited for 2019 and adding sponsors to the program.”



Matt Hiss from Hiss Sherman Wealth Management said, “this is our way of giving back to the generation before us. They paved the way and built the community we are fortunate enough to live in today.”

Jason Mayers, chief executive officer of MPIRE Companies, couldn’t agree more. “Our seniors are an important and too often overlooked part of our community. We are extremely happy to assist with a program that allows them to live more independently.”

Tina Mingenback, ElderCare dietary services manager, said the meal-sponsorship program is open to any business or individual at ElderCare’s 39 Senior Centers in its 28-county territory. These counties are located from central Kansas to the Colorado and Oklahoma borders. About 20 percent of the meals served each month are in Barton County.

Most Friendship Meals are served in Senior Centers but they also are delivered by Meals on Wheels. Sponsors have choices about how they can help. It could be with a check for any amount, or sponsorships for one day, once a month or quarterly. All contributions remain in local communities and donors may specify where they want their money to go.

In addition, business sponsors can raise awareness about their products and services by joining Senior Center patrons at mealtime. They are welcome to provide a quick overview of their businesses; hand out business cards and brochures; and post a banner at the Senior Center. For more information, contact ElderCare by calling 620-792-5942.

## Barton County Young Professionals to Gather for Networking Mixer Jan. 11 at Animal Medical Center

All members of the Barton County Young Professionals are invited to attend a networking mixer on Friday, January 11th from 6-8 p.m. at Animal Medical Center, 622 McKinley in Great Bend. The locally owned veterinary practice has a fun evening planned with games, giveaways and great food and drinks. Anyone 21-40(ish) that lives or works in the Barton County area is welcome to join as a new member during the event, and memberships are free of charge.

The AMC team will be cooking up beef tri-tips and all the fixings, along with serving cold beers on ice and other cocktails in souvenir AMC cups. Everyone who attends will have the chance to register for HUGE door prizes, including \$250 gift cards from High Call Outfitters and P&S Security. PLUS, ten lucky people will also win \$20 Chamber gift certificates!

There will also be a few different “minute-to-win-it” style games with veterinary themed challenges, and anyone who can complete the challenge in under 60 seconds will earn extra door prize tickets. There is no charge to attend this event, and no RSVP is required. Learn more about the event on the Barton County Young Professionals facebook page, or by visiting [www.bartonyyp.com](http://www.bartonyyp.com).



## Kansas Tourism Group Visits Rosewood Winery

“Kansas has more to offer than you think.” That’s the mantra of the South Central Kansas Tourism Region. On Wednesday, Nov. 28, members of the organization put that slogan to the test by venturing onto country roads to discover one of those tucked-away destinations that is nestled in the rolling plains west of Great Bend.

Members conducted their November meeting at the Rosewood Winery, which is part of Rosewood Ranch, located five miles north of Pawnee Rock. Although there are more than two-dozen wineries in Kansas, Rosewood Winery is the only one in the nation devoted to providing employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. It opened in the fall of 2012 and has provided work opportunities for people with disabilities ever since, producing more than 30 varieties of Kansas wines at that location.

SCKTR is an organization whose members are associated with industries of attractions, events. Members represent 22 Kansas counties that are dedicated to enhancing tourism exposure in the south central Kansas region. Barton County represents the northwest border for that region.

Great Bend community member Mark Mingenback gave a special presentation entitled “Importance of Community Self Image.” In that presentation, he stressed the importance of building positive relationships.

During the meeting, each SCKTR representative shared upcoming holiday events and activities happening in their locations and across the state of Kansas.

Following their meeting, the group had lunch and toured the winery and Rosewood’s equine therapy ranch. They also had the opportunity to participate in wine tasting.





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## Historical Society to Benefit from New Endowment

When Paul Maneth got the word about a teleconference with Katherine Opie, “it was an answer to a prayer.” He was hoping for good news and he got it.

Maneth is president of the Barton County Historical Society (BCHS) Board of Directors and Opie is co-director of the Dorothy M. Morrison (DMM) Foundation along with Sandra Opie.

During the teleconference, Maneth learned the DMM Foundation would establish an endowment to benefit the BCHS. Specifically, it will fund the salary, benefits and continuing education for the director position. The endowment has been established at the Golden Belt Community Foundation.

A new director has been chosen and the name will be announced later. Bev Komarek, long-time director, is retiring. “This wonderful gift came at a really great time,” Maneth commented. “The leadership position is so important because the director supervises the day-to-day operations at the museum. This includes communicating with the public, implementing programs and tending to the exhibits.”

The board looked for qualities such as administrative skills; active involvement in community life; a genuine interest in the history of Barton County; a commitment to preserving that history; and fundraising. “Since Bev Komarek has all these qualities, she was extremely difficult to replace,” Maneth said. “The historical society has grown because of her; she has had the pulse of the community for many years.”

Maneth is especially grateful to the DMM Foundation because smaller communities “cannot operate a historical society with only membership dues and small admission fees. You need an endowment to raise money. Private donations are the lifeblood of a non-profit entity.”

Co-director Opie noted that the DMM Foundation is excited to support the BCHS because Dorothy Mae Moses Morrison was a fourth generation Barton County native. “She valued the preservation of the region’s history and admired the robust character of the settlers who developed farms and communities here,” Opie said.

The endowment ensures the BCHS will have quality leadership and management into the future, Opie said, noting it also frees up other funding for maintenance, acquisition, preservation and additional staffing.

The DMM Foundation was established in 1993. Since then, it has been involved in the Dorothy Moses Morrison Chapel at Barton Community College; Jack Kilby Square; Camp Hope; the USD 428 Foundation; Kansas Wetlands Education Center; and the Great Bend Brit Spagh Zoo.

Christy Tustin, executive director of the Golden Belt Community Foundation, expressed her appreciation for the endowed gift and noted that the BCHS is a worthy recipient. “This endowment will help guarantee the future of the historical society. It is a wonderful community asset for all ages,” Tustin said.

An endowment is a permanent fund created for the benefit of an organization. While the principal grows over time, interest earnings are available to the organization annually. “This is a strategy that works,” Tustin said. “These endowed funds increase annually to help guarantee the long life of the organizations.”

Agencies with endowments do not have to apply for the money or write a grant. A distribution is automatic each year.

For more information about Golden Belt Community Foundation, call (620) 792-3000 or visit their website at [www.goldenbeltcf.org](http://www.goldenbeltcf.org).



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## Barton County's Got Flavor Jan. 19 to Raise Funds for Local Chapter of Habitat for Humanity

Great Bend, Kansas – Barton County's Got Flavor is coming back in 2019, with special guests, Colorado Keys, returning for a third year! On Saturday, January 19, 2019, Habitat for Humanity for Barton County will play host to a great night of food prepared by our contestants, followed up with what promises to be a night full of unforgettable entertainment! Held at the Great Bend Events

Center, this fundraiser will feature food tastings from 6:30-7:15 p.m., followed by the high energy, dueling piano entertainers from the Colorado Keys at 7:30 p.m.



### ***YOU be the judge...***

Guests will have the opportunity to taste a variety of food prepared by local volunteer chefs. Event attendees are the judges and will vote for their favorite food tasting. The winning teams will receive a trophy or cold hard cash.

"We are so excited for this annual event and hope everyone comes ready for some great food, laughter, and entertainment," Austin Cohan, Habitat for Humanity Chair goes on to say, "We invited the Colorado Keys back this year along with their Dueling Pianos act. People asked for their return and we listened."

Tickets are \$25 each for the tastings and the dueling piano show. The dinner and cash bar is available for adults only, with tickets limited to the first 150 people. Tickets for the dueling piano show, only, are available for \$15 per person.

For more information or to reserve tickets, contact at [habitatbartoncounty@hotmail.com](mailto:habitatbartoncounty@hotmail.com) or send a message through the Habitat for Humanity: Barton County Area Facebook page. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 1125 Williams, Great Bend, KS.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions. Thank you to our other sponsors: Spectrum CPA Partners, Sutherland's, P&S Electric, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd., 10th St. Eyecare Center, Keller Real Estate, Tele-Communications, Inc., Farmer's Bank & Trust, and BTI.

### ***About Habitat for Humanity:***

Habitat for Humanity has been in Barton County since 2001. Our non-profit organization gives a hand up, not a hand out. All the donations we receive are used to build or remodel homes for our partner families, who then purchase the home through a zero-interest, 25-year mortgage. The houses cost less because they are built with volunteer labor and donated materials, and because the partner families do not pay interest, home ownership is much more affordable than in the private market. In addition, the funds collected in mortgage payments can be re-used to help another family in Barton County.

## Convenient Care Relocated to St. Rose Pavilion

Convenient care and urgent care services, formerly located at Great Bend Regional Hospital (now known as The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus) were recently consolidated at St. Rose Medical Pavilion, providing easier access, more continuity of care, easier access to medical records, and more healthcare providers available.

Convenient care hours at St. Rose Medical Pavilion are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. "A walk-in visit to our clinic can be compared to going to your doctor's office," says Zena Jacobs, Clinical Director. "The copay is the same, but convenient care offers extended hours to meet the needs of busy working families."

Common conditions treated at the Convenient Care Walk-in Clinic include mild allergic reactions and rashes; asthma; back pain; colds, coughs, fever and flu symptoms; ear infections; eye irritations; fractures that need a splint; headaches and migraines; minor insect and animal bites; mild abdominal pain; minor burns, cuts, lacerations and abrasions; sinus infections; sprains and strains; urinary tract infections; and vomiting.



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## USD 428 Teacher Achieves Top National Certification

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards celebrates 3,907 new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) and another 4,446 Board-certified teachers who successfully renewed their certification in 2018. Traci Miller, second-grade teacher at Riley Elementary School was the only candidate from USD 428 in Great Bend, KS to complete the three-year process and achieve NBCT.

"Going through the National Board Certification is one of the most difficult things a teachers can do," said Khriston Thexton, USD 428 superintendent. "NBCT shows the dedication Mrs. Miller has to her profession, assuring our students, parents, and community she has met the highest standards of the teaching profession. Mrs. Miller is an outstanding educator and we are extremely proud to have her as a part of the USD 428 family!"

Miller joins over 450 teachers across Kansas, and over 122,000 across all 50 states, who have earned the profession's highest mark of achievement through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-review process, demonstrating their proven impact on student learning and achievement.





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**January 3, 2019**

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: BARTON COUNTY AREA**

**Spray-Holt Family Board Room | 1125 Williams in Great Bend**

Habitat for Humanity has been in Barton County since 2001. Our non-profit organization gives a hand up, not a hand out. Every donation received is used to build or remodel homes for our partner families, who then purchase the home through a zero-interest, 25-year mortgage.

**January 10, 2019**

### **HISS SHERMAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT & BEHREND'S TAX & ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS**

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**January 17, 2019**

### **CENTRAL KANSAS CASA**

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites | 3821 10th Street in Great Bend**

The mission of Central Kansas CASA, Inc. is to serve as an advocate for abused and neglected children by providing a pool of trained caring volunteers who speak for the best interest of a child until a safe, loving, and permanent home is found.

**January 24, 2019**

### **ADAMS, BROWN, BERAN & BALL, CHTD.**

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Founded in 1945, ABBB provides a wide range of CPA and business consulting services to clients throughout the United States in industries including agriculture, oil & gas, manufacturing, retail & restaurants, construction & real estate, medical practices, and more.

**January 31, 2019**

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