



OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

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

SCHOOLS OUT & The Rec is In!



Recreation and Parks Make Sizeable Economic Impact

On any given day, someone is being positively affected through parks and recreation – whether they are taking a walk at Veteran's Lake, taking an exercise class at the Great Bend Activity Center, visiting the My BackYard playground, enjoying the amenities at Brit Spaugh Zoo, playing in a ball tournament at the Sports Complex or just reaping the benefits of serene public green spaces for bikers and nature enthusiasts. Recreation and Parks build healthy, vibrant and resilient communities. However, they are also powerful engines of economic activity.

The "Economic Impact of Parks," a new report issued by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) demonstrates the vast economic impact of our nation's recreation and park systems. According to the report, operations and capital spending by Kansas local parks and recreation departments was responsible for \$812,651,148 in economic activity and supported 7,870 jobs. This study was developed in partnership with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University.¹

"Recreation and parks don't just make our community stronger, they make our lives better. Everyone has a fond memory of being in a 'Rec' program or spending time on a playground or in a park at a sporting event," said Diann Henderson, Executive Director of the Great Bend Recreation Commission. "As this study indicates, seven in ten individuals regularly visit their local parks and recreation facilities. An even larger number – nine in ten – agrees that their communities benefit from everything their local recreation commission's and parks offer. This level of public support is not surprising as recreation promotes healthy, prosperous and connected communities in nearly every community throughout the United States."¹



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SCHOOLS OUT & The Rec is In!

"Parks and recreation provide tremendous health and environmental benefits; however, they are also powerful engines of economic activity," says Barbara Tulipane, NRPA president and CEO. "This report demonstrates why policymakers and elected officials at all levels of government should prioritize park and recreation funding in communities everywhere. The impact of these investments is huge."

Public support for parks and recreation is strong. The 2017 NRPA American's Engagement with Parks Survey found 92 percent of American's agree parks and recreation are important local government services as comparable to police/fire/schools/transportation. More over, 85% of Americans seek high-quality park and recreation amenities when choosing a new place to live. By investing in the overall quality of life in a community, you are building a sense of place, creating a virtuous cycle: high quality of life locations attract workers, which attracts employers, which in turn attract even more investment."²

Likewise, in Great Bend, there are economic values from our local recreation and park systems. In 2017, the Great Bend Recreation Commission, a separate local municipality apart from the city and the school district, was a significant employer in providing 8 fulltime and 176 seasonal and part time jobs to the area. For this same period, there were 6,469 residents enrolled in recreation programs and 549 non-residents for a total of 7,018 individuals engaging in recreation activities across a wide spectrum of activities. For that period, 137,896 individuals participated in recreation events and activities provided by the Recreation Commission.

The Recreation Commission works closely with the City of Great Bend and USD #428 school district. These alliances are assuring that Great Bend residents and visitors to our community have the continued recreational opportunities to be actively engaged in our parks, our zoo, aquatic water park, recreation centers, sports complexes and public-school facilities through a multitude of enrichment, academic and outdoor nature experiences; after school programs; sports venues, swimming, hiking and biking opportunities, community events, and sports tournaments. These operations generate positive impacts that ripple through our local economy.

July is Park and Recreation Month. We challenge you to explore the undiscovered roles of our Recreation Commission and Great Bend Park's system, because we are so much more. Examples include science and technology (Stem) camps for our youth, senior programs, innovative health and wellness opportunities such as Fit Trail Fitness, community events such as Great Bend Air Fest and Party in the Park, hosting the 11& Under State NBC Baseball Championships, Movie Night at Jack Kilby Square, and Tennis Party on the Court.



The Great Bend Rec recently rebranded, and will have a NEW mobile-friendly website launching later this summer! Follow them on Facebook for the latest news & events!

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¹ <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/research/economic-impact-study-summary-2018.pdf>

² https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Engagement-Survey-Report.pdf

Miller's of Claflin Celebrates 115th Anniversary

Miller's of Claflin is celebrating 115 years of serving Kansas! The family owned store opened in 1903 in the heart of Central Kansas and has continued to expand its brands, inventory and exceptional custom service today. Customers are invited to browse 13 showrooms containing the largest selection in home furnishings from Kansas City to Denver. Open Monday – Saturday with extended hours on Thursday evenings till 8:00 p.m., the community is encouraged to visit the store just a short 15 minute drive from Great Bend, or find more information on their anniversary celebration sale online at millersofclaflin.com.



St. Rose Therapy Services Introduces Allison Widener

In light of the current opioid crisis, the new physical therapist at St. Rose Health Center suggested pain sufferers might want to consider an alternative to medications. Allison Widener recently joined St. Rose Therapy Services on the facility's second floor. One of her priorities is helping people with chronic pain. "Those who suffer from chronic pain don't often think about physical therapy as a way to find relief," Widener said. "But physical therapy is a great non-invasive choice for patients who don't want more medication or who want to wean themselves off opioids. It is also a great option for people who do not want additional surgery or injections."



Widener brings to her new position a background in treating back and neck pain, especially for pregnant women, and spinal cord and orthopedic injuries. She joins the other St. Rose physical therapist, Melanie Schroeter, who earned a doctorate in physical therapy.

"I have been working with Melanie only a short time and I already know we have very similar treatment styles," Widener said. "We both focus on listening to our patients and treating the entire body, not necessarily just the one area that displays symptoms. One area often affects another."

A doctor's referral is not necessary to make an appointment; the number is 620-786-6515. Widener is originally from Beatrice, Neb., and earned her bachelor's degree in 2001 at Bethel College in North Newton. She received her master's in physical therapy in 2004 at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo. Widener and her husband, Michael, have three children: Regan, 10; Brynn, 8; and Anelle, 6. They live in rural Hudson.

St. Rose Health Center specializes in primary care, prevention and wellness. Services include St. Rose Family Medicine, Convenient Care Walk-in Clinic, Great Bend Internists, Imaging, Cardiac Rehab, Physical Therapy, Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice and a comprehensive Specialty Clinic. Hays Medical Center, which is part of The University of Kansas Health System, is the sole owner of St. Rose.

Sunflower Bank's ABC Program Completes 17th Year

This month schools and students are receiving a total of \$99,760 in grants from the ABC Program that supports education in Sunflower Bank and First National 1870's communities. Since the start of the ABC Program in 2001, Sunflower Bank has given away more than \$1,238,000 in support of education. \$4,324 of the funds raised this year are being donated to schools and students in Great Bend and Ellinwood. Visit a local branch, SunflowerBank.com or FirstNational1870.com to learn more about the bank's support for its communities.



Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the



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Fax: 620-792-2404

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abauer@greatbend.org

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GBCT Wins Over \$10,000 from 100 People Who Care

The Great Bend Community Theatre is pleased to announce they were recently voted as the winner of more than \$10,000 in donations from the members of the 100+ People Who Care group in Barton County. Following a humorous presentation from theatre members Dan Heath and Matt Mazouch, members of the group selected the Community Theatre out of the three charitable organizations who presented.



The Theatre plans to utilize the funds to bring the Missoula Children's Theatre Company to the Great Bend community for the benefit of the youth in the area. Professional actors and directors would be in residence for a week-long camp, providing up to 50-60 youth the opportunity to grow both on and off the stage, through the creation of lights, props, and a musical theater production. The company describes the experience they bring to youth in this way: "On Monday, they're cast as characters. By Saturday, they've GAINED CHARACTER. The kind that really counts!"

The Great Bend Community Theatre looks forward to bringing this tour to Great Bend to promote pride, confidence, character, work ethic, and team building skills in our youth. With 100% of ticket sales from the youth production retained locally, they also hope to sustain this program for many years to come.

"We couldn't be more grateful that the members of 100+ People Who Care are investing in this sustainable program," says Dan Heath, GBCT Volunteer. "Some kids have sports, some kids have music, and this program will help provide another opportunity for students to find their talents and build confidence and character through the fun of live theater."

To learn more about the Great Bend Community Theatre, please visit their website at www.gbct.net, and be sure to like the organization's Facebook page. Anyone else wishing to donate to the new summer camp project can mail their tax deductible gift to PO Box 361, Great Bend, KS 67530.

Rosewood Services Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Rosewood Services, the agency that started with only a dozen clients and an innovative vision for people with disabilities to "Celebrate Life," celebrated 20 years in business last month during a special event with nearly 500 clients, their families, employees and Rosewood supporters in attendance. The evening featured remarks by Kansas Supreme Court Justice, Honorable Dan Biles, a long-time advocate of people with disabilities. Many long-time employees were recognized during the evening, as were people who have played a fundamental role in supporting Rosewood Services throughout its two decades.



What began as a dream in May 1998, with founder Tammy Hammond as the agency's only employee, has now grown to become one of the state's greatest advocates and supporters of people with disabilities. Over the years, Rosewood has also become one of the area's largest employers, employing nearly 350 people who daily serve more than 200 people with disabilities.

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

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HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JUNE

- 1... 13th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament, Stoneridge Country Club @1p.m.
- 2... Yoga Central at June Jaunt, North Side of Jack Kilby Square @8:30a.m.
- 2... Paint in the Park with Brick Alley at June Jaunt, South Side of Jack Kilby Square @10a.m.
- 2... Grand Opening of the Grizzly Bear Exhibit, Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo @9a.m.
- 3... Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation Tee Off for Health, Larned Country Club @7:30a.m.
- 4... St. Francis TIPS-MAPP Training Kick-Off, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 2101 Jackson @6p.m.
- 7... Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Zoological Society, The Raptor Center, 2121 Main St. @9a.m.
- 11... Touched by Cancer Support Group, Heartland Cancer Center, 204 Cleveland St @4p.m.
- 12... Dine for Dolly at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, 3008 10th St. @10:30a.m.
- 14... Chamber Coffee: Dr. Mark A. Judd, OD PA & 20/20 Optix, 1701 K96 Hwy. @9a.m.
- 14... Father's Day Surprise, Dilly & Doc, 1119 Main St. @11:30a.m.
- 15... Clara Barton Hospital Foundation Annual Benefit Golf Tournament, Lake Barton @8a.m.
- 19... Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, 1300 Kansas Ave. #B, @11a.m.
- 19... Making the Goods, Heartland Farms, 1049 CR 390, Pawnee Rock, @7p.m.
- 19... Girly Girls Camp, Dilly & Doc, 1119 Main St. @9a.m.
- 20... Furniture Flip, Dilly & Doc, 1119 Main St. @6p.m.
- 21... Chamber Coffee: Plains State Bank, 800 Coolidge St. @9a.m.
- 23... Dilly & Doc's Summer Pop-Up Market, 1119 Main St. @10a.m.
- 28... Chamber Coffee: Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Spray-Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams St. @9a.m.
- 28... Ribbon Cutting: AromaTouch Therapy w/ Cathy Morris, 1125 Williams St. @10a.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:

- 1-3... June Jaunt Festival, Jack Kilby Square in Downtown Great Bend, visit www.K96JuneJaunt.com
 - 4-6... Kids Nature Camp, Dilly & Doc, 1119 Main St. @9a.m.
- Great Bend Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, weekly on Thursdays through September 13th, South Side of Jack Kilby Square, 4-7p.m.

City Band Announces Summer Concert Schedule

The Great Bend City Band Announces their Summer 2018 schedule. All concerts this year will be held at the courthouse square band shell at 8:15 pm. Concert dates are on the following Thursdays: May 31st, June 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th. A special jazz band concert will also be held at 8:15 pm at the band shall on June 29th. July concerts will be July 5th, 12th & 17th. In case of inclement weather, the concert for that evening will be cancelled by 7:15 pm.

The July 5th concert will be a patriotic concert. On July 17th, the Great Bend City Band will host a dual concert with the 35th Infantry Division Band. This special concert will begin at 7:30 pm with the Great Bend City Band followed by the 35th Infantry Division Band at 8:15 pm. The concert will conclude with a mass band performance of "America, the Beautiful" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

For more information, the director, Steven Lueth, at 620-935-4330.



Sunflower Offers New Support Group

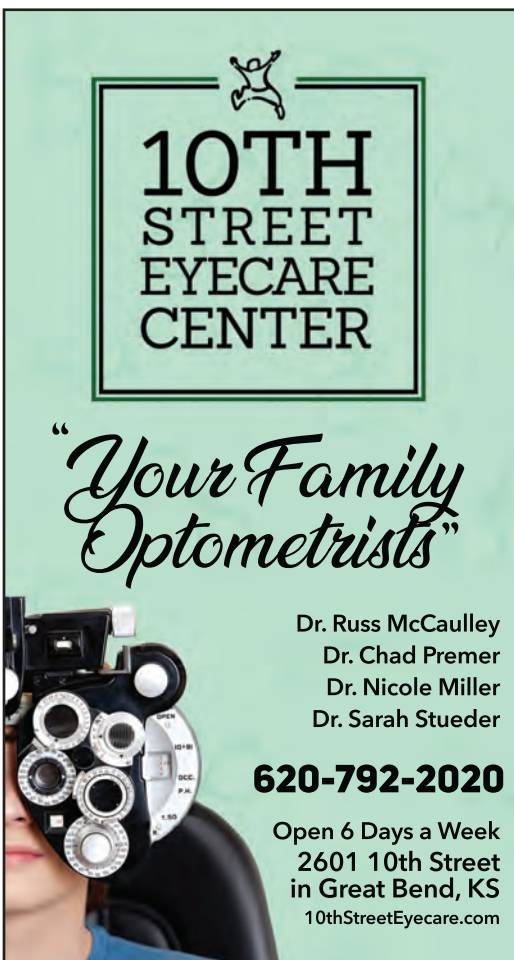
Debbie McCormick vividly remembers her meetings with education professionals about a family member with a developmental delay. These are not fond memories. "I cannot tell you the number of times I was just barely holding it together," McCormick said. "I would leave the meetings and usually make it to my car. Then I would sit there and let the frustration out."

Since McCormick doesn't want other parents to feel so alone, she approached Jon Prescott, Sunflower Diversified Services executive director, about forming a support group. Prescott listened and the introductory meeting of "Caregivers Count" is set for 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 at the Hoisington Activity Center.

McCormick has a daughter with developmental delays; the daughter, who is now in her 30s, had three daughters who McCormick adopted. All three have received Sunflower services over the years. "Parents and other caregivers are on islands by themselves, McCormick says. "No one understands and they don't know which way to turn. It is overwhelming."

Caregivers Count will meet quarterly but its members will be encouraged to reach out to one another anytime. "Our steering committee will help pull people together and get connected," McCormick said.

"Any parent, guardian, grandparent or foster parent of a child birth to age 21 with special needs is encouraged to attend," Sunflower's Heather Quillin said. "We hope caregivers will build a rapport with one another for support in their day-to-day lives and that this group will provide opportunities to gather resources." Sunflower is in its 52nd year.



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Barton's 2018 Commencement at a Glance

Barton Community College's 48th commencement was held on Friday, May 11, in the Barton Gymnasium. U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall, M.D. helped celebrate the achievements of the class of 2018, providing the evening's keynote address.

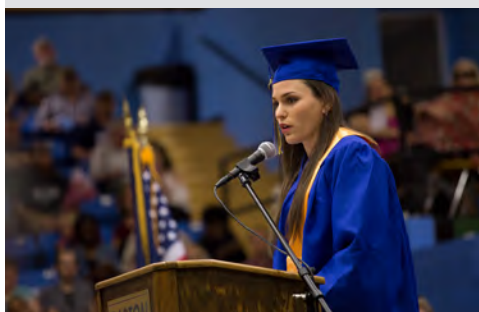


Carolina Temponi Goncalves of Brasilia, Brazil and Enrique Martinez Flores of San Salvador, El Salvador were named Barton Community College's 2018 Outstanding Graduates.

After being recognized and receiving their awards, the students addressed their fellow graduates. Goncalves spoke of her journey to achieving her dreams, "One day I thought about being here... one day I wished I could be here... one day I prayed to be here... I did, I'm here! If you have something in your mind, if you really wish you could do something, believe in it," she said.



Honors Graduate Enrique Martinez Flores addresses the crowd during Barton's 2018 commencement ceremony.



The Barton Community College Foundation honored Larry and Kathy Schugart with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award during Barton's 48th. The award, created in 1981, seeks to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for, and have performed outstanding service to, Barton Community College. Larry and Kathy have been involved with Barton since its inception and are loyal donors and supporters of the Barton Foundation as well. They donate annually to each campaign or initiative and established the Larry and Kathy Schugart Scholarship in 2011. Once again proving their generous nature, in 2012 they donated the funds for the installation of the Larry & Kathy Schugart Family practice basketball court in the Kirkman Building.

Pictured above, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Coleen Cape gives the Distinguished Service Award to Larry and Kathy Schugart.



Cherry Village Offers New Therapy Systems to Enhance Residents Lives

When Kim Rockhold refers to the new equipment at Cherry Village Benevolence as a “therapist’s dream,” she is not thinking of herself or her rehabilitation team. She is thinking about the new opportunities for residents to “greatly enhance their quality of life.”

Rockhold is the rehab director at Cherry Village, a short- and long-term-care residence; she also is a certified occupational therapy assistant. “We are capable of doing so much more now for residents who need physical, occupational and/or speech therapies,” Rockhold said. “These new high-tech systems can help us work wonders.”

“It is obvious our patients are enjoying their therapy sessions more now,” she added. “They are being challenged but having fun at the same time.”

Rockhold outlined the basics of each new therapy system. The OmniStand is especially helpful for those who have not been able to stand at all or for only limited amounts of time. “The patient is safe and cannot fall,” Rockhold said. “It is great for balance and gait training. Goals are better strength, balance and endurance.”

The OmniVR takes therapy patients into a virtual-reality world where they play games, while reaping physical and cognitive benefits. “It is great to see our residents having fun with this,” Rockhold said. “They are playing games, according to individual abilities. They are not thinking about the therapy and are spending about twice as much time exercising.”

Pain management is the focus of the OmniVersa, which uses traditional ultrasound and electrotherapy in new ways. “This treatment helps manage pain, relieve muscle spasms, increase range of motion and re-educate muscles,” Rockhold said. “It also increases blood flow and decreases joint stiffness and inflammation.”

The OmniCycle offers exercise for upper and lower extremities, while accounting for varying limitations. “It automatically senses what the patient is doing and makes adjustments accordingly,” Rockhold commented. “Residents in wheelchairs can use this cycle, which is safer than transferring someone from the wheelchair to participate in therapy.”

Cherry Village purchased the therapy systems from ACP in late April. Its representative spent two full days training the therapists, who are Cherry Village employees that offer all services on-site.

The company will provide additional training this month and be at Cherry Village at least quarterly. “It is great to know they will be here with updates and new ideas,” Rockhold said. “I am eager to watch our residents make even more progress.”

A local family has operated Cherry Village, a non-profit entity, since it opened in 1978.



Barton Foundation Clay Shoot Reaches Nearly 200 Participants

The annual Barton Community College Foundation Sporting Clay Shoot continues to grow every year with a record 197 shooters who turned out to support the cause and test their aim and reflexes with a shotgun on April 22 at Camp Aldrich. The Barton Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal for mini-grants that faculty can use to purchase equipment or enhance their classrooms.

In previous years, faculty have used the mini-grants for purchasing calculators for the math department, a Red Man suit to allow the Criminal Justice students to safely practice martial arts, music stands, Emergency Medical Technician equipment, easels for the art department and much more.

Foundation Director Coleen Cape said she’s excited to have had so many participants this year, both local and abroad, drawing from Lawrence, Manhattan, Colby, Goodland, Wichita and Nebraska. Cape also extended her gratitude to the many sponsors who helped make the event possible. See the complete list of sponsors at news.bartonccc.edu.

Just In Time Remodeling Hosts Ribbon Cutting for 1st Anniversary

Just In Time Remodeling recently celebrated its 1-year anniversary after opening in May of 2017. To commemorate their anniversary and get more involved in the community, they are proud to have joined the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development as a new member.

Owner Justin Mawhirter is a native of Great Bend with over 10 years of experience in the plumbing and home improvement industries. He currently employs one other full-time construction specialist, Anthony Broeder, who is a native of the Hoisington area. A third employee will be joining the team this summer. “We have been blessed in our first year of business, and appreciate all the support this community has given us,” Mawhirter says. “We have big plans to continue growing in 2018.”

Just In Time Remodeling specializes in residential remodeling for kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms. They also do siding, windows, and doors. Request a free estimate for your next remodeling project by calling 620-617-1714.



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The HR Pro: What is HR Compliance All About?

If you have employees, you know that managing people comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility. You have many, many decisions to make regarding how you approach relationships with your people, how you express what is important to you and how you educate your employees on what to do (and what not to do).



Plus, the state and federal government are looking over your shoulder to make sure you are doing these things the right way, which can be a little intimidating if you're not sure of your obligations.

People can be wildly unpredictable, which, as a lifetime HR practitioner and leader, I find endlessly fascinating; it's basically what keeps me engaged in HR as a profession. I enjoy people, getting to know them and their fears, hopes and foibles, but these are the very things that create the most challenge for employers! I've heard many a manager say that they just didn't enjoy managing people – not because they didn't like their people, but because it was so hard to determine how to choose actions that will turn out to be right in every case, and please everyone – the employees, the authorities, their clients AND the general public. THIS is why HR compliance is important – you stand a much better chance of doing the thing that works best for everyone.

In every employee-related decision you make, there are several considerations that fall under the mantle of HR Compliance:

1. **Staying out of trouble** – this is Compliance at its heart. You want to make sure the decision you make won't get you sued if things go wrong, or if a suit is filed, you have a solid defense.

That's just one consideration – there are actually others that matter! Just a couple of examples:

2. **The Market** – what are other employers doing that you are essentially competing with when you try to hire and keep good people?
3. **Best Practices** – what are the "right" things to do, considering your ethical standards, as well as the culture of your business?

This is just the first in a series of articles that will cover basic compliance topics, like job descriptions, policies, communication tools, and other concepts that help you manage your people. Stay tuned! For more information, visit www.thehrpro.net, or call 620-793-0985.

The HR Pro Celebrates New Business Launch

After more than 25 years in the Human Resources industry, Erika Brining recently launched a new consulting business called The HR Pro. And last month, she celebrated the new endeavor by hosting a Chamber ribbon cutting ceremony at her office, which is located inside The Fieldhouse at 2817 9th Street in Great Bend.

"If you have employees, then you undoubtedly deal with human resources issues on a regular basis. With the landscape in employment law and benefits administration constantly changing, I am hoping to bring my many years of experience to the employers in Great Bend and the surrounding area," Brining says. "I can tackle one-time projects or stay available on a retainer to serve as an ongoing resource."

Learn more about The HR Pro's services at www.thehrpro.net. To schedule a free consultation, call Erika Brining at 620-793-0985 or email erika@thehrpro.net.



Housing Opportunities Inc. Offers \$25,000 Grants for New Homes

Since 2000, Housing Opportunities, Inc. (HOI) has been Great Bend's best kept secret. With 56 new single family owned homes and 92 new rentals built in Great Bend, HOI has been building futures for families and contributing to our local economic development. HOI has become the largest central Kansas contractor, landlord, and developer changing vacant lots and fields into prospering neighborhoods while providing quality and affordable housing for over 430 families. HOI has assisted families in staying in Great Bend, assisted families returning to their roots after being gone for years, often bringing extended families together, and helped others move from other Kansas towns and states.



HOI has partnered with the City of Great Bend to offer a \$25,000 Down Payment and Closing Cost Grant from the State of Kansas for the construction of 7 new homes. Only 6 grants remain available. Households who income qualify and are approved for a loan from a local lender can provide their own lot, or purchase one from HOI, and contract with HOI's State and local licensed General Contractor, Eddie Price, to build the home of their dreams. In addition to the \$25,000 grant, HOI's lots are in the primary zone for the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate Program which will qualify families for over \$20,000 in real estate tax rebates during a 10 year period.

For more information about this opportunity or other rental units, please call Vicky Dayton at 620-792-3299. HOI is an Equal Housing Opportunity Provider.

River Bend Assisted Living Receives National Chairman's Cup Award

River Bend, assisted living by Americare recently received its company's Chairman's Cup Award during Americare's annual meeting in Kansas City, MO. River Bend was selected from Americare's 87 assisted living communities to receive the award based on exemplary quality in all four areas of the company's corporate philosophy: service to residents, service to employees, service to the community, and fiscal responsibility.

The Chairman's Cup is given annually each spring and reflects a community's performance during the prior 12 months.

As the cup winner, they have earned the right to display the Chairman's Cup in its lobby for the next year. River Bend is a 40-bed assisted living community licensed by the State of Kansas.



T&L Fireworks in Family's 48th Year

In 1970, Tom and Linda Barnes and their two daughters, Christy and Kathy relocated from Grandview, Missouri to Great Bend, Kansas. T & L Fireworks began business in a little white handmade wooden stand in the front of the family home on 24th Street. Since that time, the family has grown along with the types and sizes of their locations. T & L is proud to be able to offer the convenience of air conditioned comfort, full sized shopping carts, and advanced payment methods to those who shop with us.

The main location just north of Great Bend on 281 HWY (159 North 281 HWY, Great Bend, Kansas) is operated by 3 generations of the family including Ashley Klein and her husband, Tyler, Katelyn Kaiser and Cara Moore and her husband, Brady. The 7,500 square foot super store opens for business on June 27th and closes the night of the 4th of July.

The Hoisington, Kansas location at 471 South Main Street has been serving the residents of Hoisington and surrounding communities since 1975. Local Hoisington residents Carla Richards and Lana Kephart and their families assumed the management of the Hoisington location. The Hoisington location opens on June 27th and will sell through July 4th.

Kim and Cheryl Beckwith, with the First Christian Church in Larned, Kansas operate the location at 718 Fort Larned Avenue with the assistance of multiple church members. The church is awarded a percentage of their locations total sales each year to be used for special projects and/or improvements as determined by the church. The Larned location opens on July 1st selling through July 4th.

T & L Fireworks is a member of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and the Hoisington Chamber of Commerce. Tom and Linda are members of the National Fireworks Association and the Kansas Firework Association.

OPI Offering Cash Register Service

Those who operate cash registers know that sometimes drawers won't function, printers won't print, and beeps keep beeping. Chris Brunner at Office Products Inc. (OPI) understands these problems and is available to solve them. Brunner recently became certified in the maintenance and repair of cash registers. "OPI has expanded its cash-register service, which also includes the sale of the Sam4s brand," Brunner said. "We saw this as an opportunity to meet even more of our customers' needs.

"As far as I know, no one else in the area is offering sales, maintenance and repair," he added. "Customers can call us directly and get the local help they deserve, instead of trying to deal with an out-of-town or out-of-state company."

His recent training and certification in St. Paul, Minn., prepared Brunner to service and repair many brands of cash registers. Depending on the circumstances, Brunner can repair the machines on-site or at OPI. Brunner also repairs iPhones and Androids, along with all makes of tablets. This new service began last summer at OPI for problems such as cracked phone screens and water damage.

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



SUMMER Camps

Camp schedule for summer 2018!

June 2	LEGO Camp
June 8	Pirate Treasure Hunt
June 15	Fishing Day Out
June 22	Aquatic Camp
June 25	Game Creators
June 25	Video Game Design
June 29	Explore Ft. Larned
July 6	Heartland Farm
July 13	Kids Day at the Beach
July 16	Intro Stem in LEGO Camp
July 16	Stem Challenge Lego Camp
July 20	Zoo Day Out
July 25	CSI & Kids Safety Day



Great Bend Rec
1214 Stone Street
620.793.3755
facebook.com/greatbendrec

Hard Right Rolling Boutique Makes Local Debut

Stressed to the max, but wanting to find a way to have fun while still effectively helping people, Alishia Wondra and Ruth Joiner both quit their 60+ hour psych nurse jobs... you read that right. They took a hard right in life and made the decision to leave their high paying jobs and they bought a box truck. With the purchase of their mobile boutique and late night hours creating hand-made crafts, jewelry and more, Hard Right Rolling Boutique was born! The once boring white box truck got a facelift, including a deck that could be raised and lowered to enable shoppers to enter the transformed truck. Alishia and Ruth have taken their rolling boutique far and wide, traveling to flea markets, downtown squares and even parked outside homes for on-the-spot shopping.



To encourage the giving spirit, they have partnered with many charitable initiatives to give back a portion of their proceeds, including a blanket drive for the late Dade Cannon and his friends in the hospital, also battling cancer. With hungry hearts of gold, these ladies are on a mission!

We celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting on April 19th and invited Wondra and Joiner to share their courageous story and they were, of course, open for business! Look for them during United Way of Central Kansas' Shop United, rolling out soon! You can also find them on Facebook or visit their website to inquire about having their rolling boutique pull up out outside your place of business or home! @hardrightrollingboutique <https://hardrightrollingboutique.com/>

American State Bank Welcomes Douglas Thurman

American State Bank & Trust is pleased to announce that Douglas Thurman of Hays has joined the bank in a newly created position of Executive Vice President Chief Lending Officer Agribusiness. Thurman is a well-known Kansas agribusiness banker with more than 42 years of agriculture lending experience. He retired last year as President and CEO of High Plains Farm Credit in Larned. In the position since 1999, he grew the agriculture loan business from \$30 million to \$1.18 billion. Thurman has been farming near his home in Rozel since his retirement.

Before serving as CEO and CCO of High Plains Farm Credit, he also worked at US AgBank, Farm Credit of Northeast Kansas, First National Bank of Hays and Garden City PCA.

Thurman graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in business and also graduated from the University of Colorado Graduate School of Banking. "We are pleased to be able to coax Doug out of retirement because of his reputation as one of the best ag bankers in the state of Kansas," said Greg Quarles, President and CEO of American State Bancshares. "Bringing someone of his caliber and expertise to our customers and to the agribusiness community demonstrates our commitment to agribusiness which is the economic foundation of our state."

American State Bancshares is in the process of merging its two separately chartered banks which would create the state's 15th largest bank with consolidated assets of \$675 million. Subject to regulatory approval, the merged bank will be known as American State Bank & Trust with branches throughout western and central Kansas.



3 Reasons to Hire The HR Pro



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Ambassador Profile - Deanna Vannoster, H&H Roofing

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

My husband, Gregg, and I moved to Great Bend when I was transferred here for my job several years ago. We've made many friends here and Central Kansas has become our home! The sense of home and being a part of an engaged and caring community keeps us here.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I work at H&H Roofing. I sell roofs, guttering, siding, windows, and doors. I listen to my customers' priorities regarding improving their home, advise and educate them regarding options and the value and service that H&H delivers, help design exteriors, and match them with their wants and needs.

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

Most people who know me know how much I enjoy hunting and fishing, but few people realize I did not grow up with these hobbies; I was a city girl!

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

Being with people energizes me! I enjoy meeting new people and I enjoy being outdoors!

At what job, would you be terrible?

I would be terrible at any job that didn't offer much interaction with others.

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

I've been an Ambassador for two years. I enjoy serving the community and celebrating the success of businesses in Great Bend!

About Chamber Ambassadors:

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber as volunteers. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact the Chamber: 620-792-2401.



MPIRE Realty Group Celebrates First Anniversary

Happy 1 Year Anniversary to MPIRE Realty Group! Located at 3520 Lakin Ave., this client-focused and forward thinking realty group was excited to open their doors and let us tour their recently remodeled office, where their core values are proudly displayed for all to see. Aaron Andrews, broker and partner, says MPIRE is proud to be in Great Bend and has many moving parts, but their number one focus is the clients and customer satisfaction. From 3D and Virtual Home Tours to bluetooth key boxes, MPIRE empowers their six real estate agents with the best in technology, which brings the best to their clients. Among the new things happening, is the addition of an auctioneer, Mike Niedens.

If you are in the market to buy or sell, call MPIRE Real Estate Group at 620-792-4133 or find them

online at www.mpirerealtyks.com. You can also find their individual realtors on Facebook. Their realtors include Aaron Andrews, Amanda Swigart, Jessica Milsap, Mac Holman, and Sarah Panning.



GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WELCOME to Our **NEWEST** Chamber Members

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Phill Martin, Owner
67 NW 50th in Great Bend, KS 67530
nozzleblastllc@gmail.com
www.nozzleblastllc.com
Agricultural Seeding & Spraying

TERRI LYNN COACHING

Terri Koelsch, Stress Mgmt. Coach
119 NW 40th Ave in St. John, KS 67576
785-422-8010
Terrilynncoaching.com
terri Lynncoaching@gmail.com
Life Coach / Wellness

GOLDEN BELT BICYCLE COMPANY

Todd VanSike, Owner
1111 Main St in Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-7060
goldenbeltbicyclecompany@gmail.com
Bicycle - Dealers

DAT HIIT PERFORMANCE

Dave Tudor, Owner/Trainer
The Fieldhouse
2817 9th St in Great Bend, KS 67530
620-617-0159
www.fieldhousegb.com/dat-fitness
Fitness & Health

KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

Joy Crawford, Healthy Families Supervisor
3520 Lakin Ste 107 in Great Bend, KS 67530
620-603-8442
jcrawford@kcsll.org
<http://kcsll.org>
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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE **Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am**

June 7, 2018

GREAT BEND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Raptor Center | 2123 Main Street in Great Bend

The Great Bend Zoological Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting Great Bend's Brit Spaugh Zoo and promoting educational and conservation efforts. Whether raising funds for special projects, helping obtain new animals, volunteering at the Zoo, or just spreading the word that we have a great facility, our Board of Directors and members believe in the importance of our Zoo.

June 14, 2018

MARK A. JUDD, OD PA

Westgate Shopping Center | 1701 K-96 Highway in Great Bend

Dr. Mark A. Judd has been in practice in Great Bend since 2004 and has owned the practice since 2006. Mark A. Judd, OD and the 20/20 Optix Frame Gallery provide full scope optometric vision and eye care in the Central Kansas Region. We sell contact lenses as well as eye glasses. Our Frame shop boasts one of the largest selections of frames in the area. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

June 21, 2018

PLAINS STATE BANK

800 Coolidge Street in Great Bend

Plains State Bank is a full-service bank that prides ourselves on quality customer service and making your success simple. We provide agricultural, commercial and consumer services, with locations in Great Bend, Plains, and Lakin, Kansas. While we continue to enjoy the face-to-face interaction, we are constantly working to incorporate technology that makes our fast-paced world a little easier to maneuver for our customers. Visit www.plainsstatebank.com or find us on social media.

June 28, 2018

ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR

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

Enjoy low rates, free pick up and award winning customer service! We look forward to sharing more about our local services at the Chamber Coffee. Our local manager, Ronda Krier, stands ready to assist you at 620-793-9992 or visit us online at enterprise.com to start your rental quote today!

July 5, 2018

LOCATION TBD

Watch the Weekly Email Update for Details

If you are interested in hosting a Chamber Coffee, please get in touch with Megan Barfield at the Chamber Office: 620-792-2401 or mbarfield@greatbend.org.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.