

NewsLetter

Business and Economy

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IGNITE the NIGHT with 10-39 Cafe

Join us to celebrate 10-39 Cafe taking their dream from the IGNITE competition to OPEN for Business!



Bright Beginnings Open House/Ribbon Cutting May 2nd

Great Bend Alive's Fridays on Forest is back for the 4th Year and bringing some fun with Fuel Barton County.



Fridays on Forest is extra this month!

Fridays on Forest is super-sized with a parade to kick it off, then adding our "Boys of Summer" the Great Bend Bat Cats Baseball team into the fun!



*Co-Owners bring burgers to
the brick streets of Ellinwood*

10-39 Cafe

Jarrett & Audrey Mermis, Co-Owners
Chance & Brittney Bailey, Co-Owners
104 W 1st Street
Ellinwood, KS
620-566-1039
1039cafe@gmail.com

Find them on:
[Facebook](#)

Open May 6th!

Co-Owners Jarrett & Audrey Mermis and Chance & Brittney Bailey (pictured from left to right: Brittney, Jarrett, Audrey, and Chance) chat at the register during one of 10-39 Cafe's soft openings. The two couples brought their shared dream of a diner to life this year.

10-39 Cafe & 10-39 Treats

*10-39 offers elevated diner food and
cool treats for their corner of Barton
County*

Tell us about you and the business:

Several of us (owners) grew up in Barton County. We are all involved in Emergency Services (EMS, Fire, & LEO) either full or part time. We all own other successful businesses as well.

10-39 Cafe was born because we needed a place to eat on nights and weekends and we wanted to give back to the community specifically area first responders. So we entered the IGNITE competition thinking what do we have to lose. We won peoples choice and second place



The soft openings were strategic for the manager, Christopher Sieker, and owners, as they work out the kinks on the new restaurant and dining spaces. Enjoy the hustle and bustle of the open kitchen from the dining room or fresh-air dining on the patio.

for a grand total of \$35,000. Now we own a cafe that will be **Open May 6th** with what we like to call elevated diner food. What is unique about 10-39 Cafe is all customers have the option to round their bill up the nearest dollar and those monies go back to emergency services and students seeking scholarships in those fields. Our sister company 10-39 Treat also sits on the lot and serves delicious shaved ice and will soon have ice cream! 10-39 Treat was formally known as Extreme Ice.

Why did your company choose to locate in Barton County?

Well several of us were born and raised here, live and work here. We couldn't imagine opening anywhere else. Barton County, specifically Ellinwood is important to us.

What did your startup plan and timeline look like?

We said we wanted to be open in 1 year, that timeline had moved quickly and its closer to 6 months.

Entrepreneurship Resources with Great Bend Economic Development

Entrepreneurs are the key to success in rural communities. If you have interest in creating a business, reach out to us today for help with business planning, financial analysis and access to start up loan funding. Great Bend Economic Development partners with many experts in the entrepreneurship field to bring you all the resources you need to get started successfully.





Chance & Brittney Bailey, Co-Owners, Christopher Sieker, manager, and Jarrett & Audrey Mermis, co-owners at the 2023 IGNITE finals. 10-39 walked away with 2nd place and the People's choice award with a total of \$35K for the business startup.

Entrepreneurship

IGNITE the Entrepreneurial Spirit in Barton County

The IGNITE Rural Business Competition, organized by Great Bend Economic Development, continues to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in Barton County, providing a platform for local businesses to thrive and innovate. Designed to empower emerging ventures, IGNITE has been a catalyst for transformation, exemplified by the recent success of 10-39 Cafe in Ellinwood.

Through the competition, 10-39 Cafe's owners honed their business plan, received mentorship, and navigated through rounds of eliminations to reach the live finals of the 2023 event. Their hard work paid off as they clinched 2nd place, earning a \$30,000 grant, and secured the People's Choice award, adding an extra \$5,000 to their prize money.

"We are thrilled to witness the entrepreneurial spirit flourishing in Barton County through the IGNITE Rural Business Competition," said Lee Ann June, Communications Director at Great Bend Economic Development. "IGNITE not only celebrates success but also fosters a culture of innovation and collaboration that drives economic growth and community development."

To celebrate this success, IGNITE the Night with 10-39 Cafe will take place on May 17th between 5-8pm at 10-39 Cafe, 104 W 1st in Ellinwood. This event celebrates 10-39 Cafe's journey to success, and the community is invited to join the celebration.

"The IGNITE competition was intense and valuable to pushing your business or idea to the next step. The mentors were fantastic, and the boards and presentations required/pushed you to excel. The live finale was a bundle of nerves but worth it to present your hard work to the community and

judges," said Brittney Bailey, 10-39 Cafe.

Attendees can expect an evening filled with camaraderie, celebration, and inspiration. Complimentary appetizers, door prizes, and drink tickets will be provided, offering a taste of the vibrant atmosphere at 10-39 Cafe. 10-39 Café will have already opened to the public, so the full menu is also available to purchase food that evening as well.

To learn more about IGNITE and to relive the excitement of the 2023 Grand Finale, visit www.igniteks.com.

Entrepreneurship

Middle School Duo Compete at the State Level with KEC



Sydney Bailey & Callie Umphres pictured at March's Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in March before going on to the state competition. Click the image to read the Great Bend Post article about their experience at State!

Entrepreneurship

Curious About the IGNITE Journey?

This Video Can Help

The IGNITE Rural Business competition beckons entrepreneurs to sow their seeds of success in Barton County. This dynamic initiative equips visionaries with tools, resources, educational sessions, and investment opportunities, igniting a blaze of innovation and impactful entrepreneurship within the community.

Participants stand to gain invaluable exposure, mentorship, and the prospect of lucrative cash prizes. The competition unfolds in structured rounds, culminating in the electrifying IGNITE Finale event scheduled for October 10, 2024, where top contenders will shine.

Eligible startups—those less than five years old with ten or fewer employees—are encouraged to seize this opportunity for growth and recognition. Applicants, aged 18 and above, must submit their entries by the June 15, 2024 deadline, with detailed guidelines and application forms available at www.igniteks.com.



Click the image above to see the competition overview for 2024!

[com](http://www.igniteks.com).

Join us in kindling the flames of innovation and creativity. The IGNITE Committee eagerly welcomes business mentors and sponsors to join our journey towards fostering entrepreneurial excellence. For inquiries, reach out to the GBED staff at 620-796-2407 or via email at marketing@gbedinc.com. Additionally, check out our new overview video (click the image above) that provides insights into timelines, necessary requirements for each round, and more. We are igniting the spirit of entrepreneurship in Barton County!

Join IGNITE Today

Aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators, it's time to ignite your potential with Ignite Kansas! This competition offers a unique platform for individuals and teams to showcase their groundbreaking ideas and turn them into reality. Whether you're a seasoned entrepreneur or just starting out, Ignite Kansas provides valuable resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities to help bring your vision to life. Don't miss your chance to be part of this dynamic community and take your ideas to the next level. Join Ignite Kansas today and ignite your entrepreneurial journey! www.igniteks.com

Focus Areas

Follow along on our journey

We are elated with the momentum gained and plan to continue to capitalize on the current progress and continue pushing forward on many ground breaking projects.

If you are interested in *investing* in GBED projects, we would be happy to keep you updated on any specific categories of interest. The upcoming project categories that we will be seeking funding for are as follows:

- * Housing
- * Childcare
- * Entrepreneurship
- * Apprenticeships

Anything you want to see in these newsletters that was not included? Please reach out to marketing@gbedinc.com with your feedback.





Childcare

ABCC Open House/Ribbon Cutting set for May 2nd

Great Bend Economic Development (GBED), a proud partner of Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC), cordially invites the media to the ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house of their daycare center, Bright Beginnings, scheduled for this Thursday, May 2nd at 10 am. The event will take place at 4507 Farmers Plaza, situated at the corner of 10th Street and K-96 Highway.

Advancing Barton County Childcare, spearheaded by Great Bend Economic Development, has undertaken the vital mission of securing funding and constructing a cutting-edge group daycare center in Great Bend. Representatives from funding partners, contractors, board members, and staff will be present to share insights about the center.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, the public is warmly invited to tour the facility. Additionally, the center will be facilitating open interviews for staff, open enrollment for children, and conducting tours for the public.



Organization

ED Board gets a preview of the new center

Several members of the Great Bend Economic Development Board convened for an update and exclusive preview of the new facility, Bright Beginnings, belonging to Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC). GBED personnel and board members explored the four classrooms, kitchen, and office within the center. Reflecting on last summer's groundbreaking event, when the property was merely an empty dirt lot, witnessing its transformation into a licensed childcare facility poised to cater to the needs of Barton County's children was truly remarkable.



Learn More & Stay Informed:
abccinc.org



Great Bend Alive

Super-sized Final Friday is happening on May 31st

Great Bend Alive presents Fridays on Forest, sponsored by Pryor Automatic Fire Sprinklers! The event will take place on Forest Avenue, from Williams to Main, on May 31st from 5 pm to 9 pm. May's theme is celebrating the Great Bend Bat Cats Baseball team before they start their 2024 season. There will be opportunities to meet the players, as well as a few drawing for giveaways and surprises! And this Friday of Forest is jammed backed! Bat Cats will join us downtown following the Great Bend Alive Parade Through Time.

This super-sized Fridays on Forest is bringing live music from Dallas Pryer and The Lazy Wayne Band! If you come for the food, you will not be disappointed, we have Lumpy's, Los Dos Potrillos, The Spread Catering, Lana's Catering and Goodies, along with Flatlanders Stone-fired Pizzas and Suck It Up Bubble Cup behind Dry Lake. If you are looking for beverages we have you covered there too with alcohol vendors: Los Dos Potrillos, Lumpy's, Charlie's Place, and Dry Lake Brewing. Pryor Automatic Sprinklers will have a few awesome Bat Cats giveaways, stop by the Bat Cats Booth in front of Forest Antiques to sign up.

Great Bend Alive is looking forward to another great season of Fridays on Forest with a few new additions and many amenities Great Bend has gotten used to having in the entertainment district. Mark your calendar for the last Friday of each month between now and October for all the



Fridays on Forest events. Many sponsorships and partnerships are already in place but if you, your business, or your organization would like to get involved, please reach out to GBED staff at 620-796-2407 or marketing@gbedinc.com. Another way to stay informed is to follow Great Bend Alive on social media.

The wind calmed down and a beautiful evening was had by over 600 at April's Friday on Forest.



Great Bend Alive

Celebrate Great Bend's Rich History

Join Us for the Great Bend Alive Parade Through Time

Great Bend Alive is delighted to extend a warm invitation to the entire community to actively participate in the upcoming "Great Bend Alive Parade Through Time." Scheduled to kick off the City of Great Bend's June Jaunt festival, this parade promises to be an enthralling celebration honoring the deep-rooted history of our beloved city.

This event offers more than just a chance to witness history—it's an opportunity for each and every one of us to become an integral part of it. We're calling on businesses, individuals, clubs, and organizations to join us in crafting a vibrant and unforgettable procession. Whether you possess a historical connection, a unique performance, or a creative costume, we urge you to share your story and be a part of this historic event. This is your moment to spotlight what makes Great Bend truly exceptional.

The Great Bend Alive Parade Through Time is not just a spectacle; it's a celebration that thrives on community involvement. We encourage participants to delve into history, performance, costumes, and reenactments to breathe life into the city's rich past. By taking part in the parade, you become an active contributor to Great Bend's collective narrative.

To be part of this historic celebration, simply submit your entry for the parade by the deadline of May 6, 2024. You can find the entry form and guidelines online at www.gbbedinc.com/mainstreet.

In addition to participating, we're also offering sponsorship opportunities for businesses and organizations. By becoming a sponsor, you not only showcase your commitment to preserving and celebrating Great Bend's heritage but also provide valuable support for the success of this historic event.



We're offering two sponsorship levels:

\$250 Sponsorship:

Name/Logo prominently displayed on a banner during the parade and on the grandstand.

Name/Logo inclusion in the local newspaper.

\$500 Sponsorship:

All benefits of the \$250 sponsorship level.

Name/Logo featured prominently on our event website and social media platforms.

Your sponsorship will help us create a truly memorable event that celebrates the unique stories and contributions of Great Bend.

Don't miss out on the fun—follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to see the excitement unfold. Let's make history come alive in Great Bend together!

For the latest updates follow Great Bend Alive on:

Facebook



Instagram



TikTok



GBEDinc.com/mainstreet



Organization

Welcome our new team member, Charley Sander

Meet Charley Sander, our dynamic new intern from Barton Community College! Charley brings her passion for events and marketing to our team, assisting in various projects and lending her positive energy to our office environment. With her dedication and fresh perspective, Charley is already making a meaningful impact. We're thrilled to have her on board!



Charley started in early April, and jumped into Great Bend Economic Development and Great Bend Alive marketing efforts right away! She was heard on the radio with Shannon, created social media posts, and helped to take photos and videos from Fridays on Forest. She is also learning to use new software, and flying the drone!



MARKETING & EVENTS INTERN

intern.team@gbedinc.com



Hi! I'm Charley Sander, the newest addition to the team at Great Bend Economic Development. Born and raised in Great Bend, I am continuing my academic career at Barton Community College with a focus on marketing. I hope to further my skills in marketing while I learn alongside my new team! I'm excited to be a part of something so big and have the opportunity to give back to my hometown.

MEET OUR PRESIDENT

director@gbedinc.com



Sara Arnberger is a native of Great Bend, Kansas and located back to the area to pursue the opportunities with economic development. Sara comes to Great Bend Economic Development with a bachelors degree from Friends University and close to 10 years of experience in management and customer service. Her experience combined with her passion for the area is sure to spur new growth.

COMMS DIRECTOR

marketing@gbedinc.com



Communications Director, Lee Ann June, is a longtime local with a love for community. She is excited to join forces with GBED to promote and grow Barton County. Bringing a comprehensive set of skills that are valuable to the organization, she is delighted to contribute her talents to GBED's efforts. Mother of two, former business owner/instructor, and creative; she brings a unique perspective to this position. Motivated by the momentum, Lee Ann is invested in seeing the Great Bend area thrive.

Organization

'ICE House' Authors visit Kansas for ICE House Summit

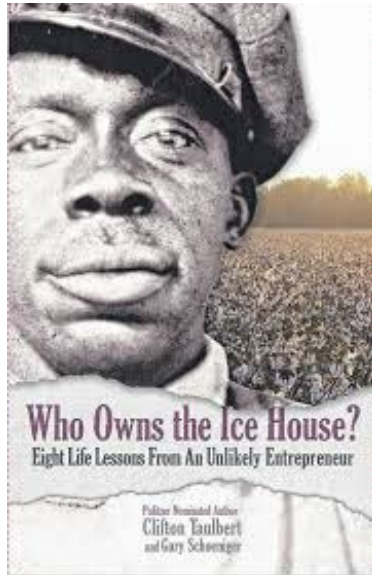
In April, Lee Ann June the Great Bend Economic Development Communications Director had the privilege of attending the Ice House Summit in Salina, Kansas, where I had the opportunity to meet esteemed individuals such as Clifton Taulbert, a Pulitzer Nominated Author, and Gary Schoeniger, co-authors of "Who Owns This Ice House?" This event, organized by NetWork Kansas, offered a profound insight into the origins and impact of the Ice House Entrepreneurship Program, which has gained widespread recognition nationwide.

The summit provided a unique glimpse into the genesis of the Ice House program and the journey that led to the creation of its accompanying curriculum. Taulbert and Schoeniger shared their inspiring story of how they collaborated to develop a curriculum that empowers individuals with an entrepreneurial mindset. From its humble beginnings to its current reach, spanning from state houses to death-row facilities and grade schools, the Ice House program has left an indelible mark on communities across the nation.

One of the most compelling aspects of the summit was learning about the diverse range of individuals and communities that have benefited from the Ice House program. From incarcerated individuals seeking a second chance to students eager to explore their potential as future entrepreneurs, the program has touched lives in profound ways. It was heartening to hear firsthand accounts of the transformative impact of the Ice House curriculum, which goes beyond traditional entrepreneurship education to foster resilience, creativity, and a sense of agency.

Moreover, the summit underscored the importance of cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset as a catalyst for personal and community development. By instilling the principles of opportunity recognition, problem-solving, and resourcefulness, the Ice House program equips participants with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of today's world and effect positive change in their lives and communities.

In conclusion, the Ice House Summit was a testament to the power of entrepreneurship education to unlock human potential and drive meaningful social impact. As we reflect on the insights shared and the stories heard, let us continue to champion initiatives like the Ice House program that empower individuals from all walks of life to realize their dreams and create a brighter future for themselves and others.



Top: Lee Ann June, Great Bend Economic Development Communications Director pictured with Clifton Taulbert (Pulitzer Nominated Author).

Above: Lea Ann Sieler (NetWork Kansas, Panel Moderator), Clifton Taulbert, Gary Schoeniger (authors), Jim Correll (Ice House Facilitator) have a panel discussion about best practices for classes.



Workforce

CK Jobs, an Enhanced Platform for Employers

Central Kansas Jobs has undergone a significant website overhaul, emphasizing our commitment to connecting talent with career opportunities. Our upgraded platform is designed to empower employers and streamline the hiring process, featuring new enhancements for a better user experience.

Users can now create profiles and establish distinct company profiles, fostering seamless collaboration within organizations. A notable addition is the "Featured Company Highlight," allowing companies to showcase their profiles in a scheduled display for \$50 per month, providing heightened visibility to potential candidates.

While we introduce premium features, posting jobs and viewing resumes remain free for employers and job seekers, ensuring an inclusive and accessible platform. Explore the revamped website at www.centrankansasjobs.com to leverage these new features and make Central Kansas Jobs your strategic partner in building successful teams.

ARE YOU HIRING?

- FREE JOB POSTINGS
- CREATE A COMPANY PROFILE
- LOOK THROUGH RESUMES
- ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

centrankansasjobs.com

central kansas

JOBS

Development

Attention Manufacturers!

Did you know there are funds available to assist in your expansion projects? Get in touch with us today to find out how to take advantage of the State's incentive programs for manufacturing. Whether you're expanding machinery, building space, capital improvements in general, hiring new employees or

re-training existing ones, there are programs that are in place to help you and we're here to help make it happen!

Check out the list of all Kansas Business Incentives [here](#) and get in contact with us at director@gbedinc.com if you feel like you might qualify.



Brush Up BC programs sees another Pawnee Rock resident to take advantage of these grant funds.

Housing

Brush Up BC

Great Bend Economic Development supports Brush Up Barton County, offering grants for exterior painting projects to eligible homeowners. With a \$5,000 annual budget, the program allocates up to \$1,000 per project, enhancing community aesthetics and property longevity. Learn more at www.gbedinc.com/housing.

Upcoming Events and Business Education

2
MAY

Building a Better Business - A Conference on Growth & Sustainability

Thursday, May 2
10:00 am - 3:00 pm \$25
Hughes Metroplex at 5015 East 29th St N, Wichita, KS
<https://secure.touchnet.com>

21
MAY

How to Start a Business - Manhattan

Tuesday, May 21
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
<https://www.washburnsmallbusiness.com/workshops.html>

2
MAY

Vital Topics in Business

Thursday, May 2
9:00 am - 10:00 am
Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Learning Center
<https://www.sba.gov/event/44235>

23
MAY

Lunch N Learn: 5 Ways to Use ChatGPT (AI) for Small Business

Thursday, May 23
Noon - 1 PM ONLINE
<https://www.sba.gov/event/45809B>

2
MAY

Shop to Celebrate - A Small Business Popup Market

Thursday, May 2
3:00 - 6:00 pm
WSU Hughes Metroplex 5015 East 29th St N Wichita
<https://www.sba.gov/event/47164>

30
MAY

Everything HR - For New and Existing Businesses

Thursday, May 30
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
ONLINE
<https://www.sba.gov/event/44231>

3
MAY

Export Documentation Awareness Training

Friday May 3
Noon - 1 pm \$30
Online
<https://www.sba.gov/event/45853>

31
MAY

Fridays on Forest Parade & Bat Cats Night!

Friday, May 31
Parade starts at 5:00 pm
5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tickets to get in: FREE
Forest Street between Main & Williams in Great Bend
Learn more: [greatbendisalive](https://www.greatbendisalive.com)

[Go to www.gbedinc.com](https://www.gbedinc.com) and scroll down to the calendar for even more classes with descriptions & links.

Education

SBDC & SBA Classes

Click on the Class Name for the Link to Registration

[Export Documentation Awareness Training](#)

Friday, May 3
noon: \$30

[Hiring Your First Employee](#)

Tuesday, May 7
noon: Free

[Logistics Best Practices Related to Sales & Marketing](#)

Wednesday, May 8
noon: Free

[What's Your Elevator Pitch?](#)

Wednesday, May 8
Noon: \$10

[Business Planning Tools](#)

Wednesday, May 8
1:00 - 4:00 PM: Free

[INCOTERMS for U.S. Exporters](#)

Thursday, May 9
Noon: \$30

[Simple Steps for Starting your Business - Basics](#)

Monday, May 13
6PM - 8PM: Free

[Advocating for Your Business: Effective Strategies for Shaping Federal Regulation](#)

Tuesday, May 14
10AM: Free

[Buy America: Demystifying the Complexities of the Buy American, Made in USA, and Build Back Better Legislation](#)

Tuesday, May 14
Noon: \$30

[Double the Insights: Google & Meta Analytics](#)

Wednesday, May 15
Noon: Free

[FTA's Qualifying Your Product and Documenting Origin](#)

Wednesday, May 15
Noon: \$30

[How to Start a Business](#)

Wednesday, May 15
5:30 PM: Free

[Business Financial Literacy](#)

Thursday, May 16
11:30: Free

[Mastering the Swipe: Streamline Your Payments & Grow Your Business](#)

Thursday, May 16
3PM: Free

[Polishing Your Business Idea](#)

Saturday, May 18
10AM: Free

[Marketing Strategy](#)

Saturday, May 18
12:30: Free

[Social Media Marketing](#)

Saturday, May 18
2PM: Free

[State Taxes for Construction Contractors](#)

Tuesday, May 21
9AM: Free

[State Sales Tax for Retailers](#)

Tuesday, May 21
1PM: Free

[Product Valuation Considerations](#)

Wednesday, May 22
Noon: \$30

[Analyze Facebook Ads for Small Business Success](#)

Wednesday, May 22
Noon: \$15

[Export Compliance Considerations for Your Shipping Departments](#)

Tuesday, May 28
Noon: \$30



U.S. Small Business Administration



Please note that online registration will close at noon the day before each event.

“Economic development is not a science, but an art, and a combination of forces and factors that must come together in the right way at the right time.” - James E. West



Watch our 2023 Year in Review

Let's keep in touch

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In the next issue



- **Featured Business**
- **Entrepreneurship Class Update**
- **Update on Childcare Center in Barton County**
- **GB Alive, Fridays on Forest, and More!**



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn



TikTok



Website



YOU'RE INVITED



**BRIGHT
BEGINNINGS**

BY



OPEN HOUSE

Join us to celebrate the completion of the first childcare center from Advancing Barton County Childcare, Inc., Bright Beginnings! Ribbon Cutting will take place at 10 am with a come-and-go Open House to follow until 4 pm.

**MAY
2ND**

**RIBBON CUTTING AT 10 AM
OPEN HOUSE 10 AM - 4 PM**

4507 FARMERS PLAZA LANE, GBK