

Dr. Sanger returns to rural Kansas at Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic



After providing care in Larned for 17 years, Dr. David Sanger moved to Hutchinson to help care for his mother during her battle with lung cancer. Now his passion for rural health care brings him back to Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic where he’s currently seeing patients. “I was not doing direct patient care while I was in Hutchinson, so I was really wanting to get back into that,” he said. “The hospital heard through a nurse practitioner here that I was looking to get back to hands-on patient care and reached out to me.” Sanger was born and raised in Wichita. He attended Wichita State University for his undergraduate studies before attending The University of Kansas School of Medicine. His residency was done at Via Christi St. Joseph. “I just loved taking care

of the people in Larned,” he said. “All of my children were born and raised in rural Kansas, so I wanted to get back here and start taking care of these folks again.” Sanger has been married for 30 years. Together, he and his wife adopted five children who now range in age from 18-26. “They’re getting older now and moving out of the house but my oldest lives in Larned. My daughter works at the hospital in Hutchinson and a middle son and his wife live in Kansas City. I have another son working on his associate’s degree and our youngest just graduated from high school.” Sanger also has a four-year-grandson. “He loves to go cycling with me and hanging out so that’s been wonderful,” he said. “I didn’t know how great it was to have a grandkid. If I had known, I would’ve had them first!” Sanger enjoys taking care of patients throughout the spectrum from birth to death and also has a passion for caring for athletes. “I spent a lot of time on the sidelines,” he said. “We are going to



be working to improve concussion care for athletes here locally in our community.” Sanger said he is excited to be back to taking care of patients on a daily basis. “I really like to partner with a patient,” he said. “I don’t like to tell them what needs to be done. I like to give them recommendations and work with them on their level of comfort to put together a plan for taking care of their health.” Dr. Sanger is accepting new patients in the Ellinwood Clinic. He is in the office Monday and Tuesday and will be seeing patients remotely through a hybrid telehealth from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday through a new walk-in clinic that opens June 1. Patients must come to the clinic but no appointment is necessary.

FUEL’s Annual Casino Night Returns: A High-Stakes Evening of Fun, Food, and Fundraising

Great Bend - FUEL Barton County, along with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, are thrilled to invite the community to an exciting night of entertainment and networking at the annual FUEL Casino Night, taking place on Friday, June 13, 2025, doors open at 6:00 PM at the Columbus Club, 723 Main St, Great Bend, KS 67530. Casino Night is one of FUEL’s signature events, bringing together profes-

sionals, community leaders, and residents for an evening of games, prizes, food, drinks, and fun — all in support of FUEL’s mission to foster leadership, connection, and civic engagement among Great Bend’s emerging professionals. Guests will enjoy classic casino games like blackjack, poker, and roulette — all played with fun money for a chance to win exciting prize packages donated by



FUEL invites everyone (21+) to their annual Casino Night. Community members enjoyed a great time at the 2024 Casino Night. local businesses. Dinner, appetizers, a cash bar, and lively entertainment round out the evening. “This is more than just a fundraiser — it’s a celebration of community and connection,” said Megan Barfield, President/CEO at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. “Whether you’re new to the area or a long-time resident, Casino Night is a great way to meet people, support local initiatives, and have a great time.” Proceeds from Casino Night support FUEL’s year-round programming, including professional development, networking

opportunities, and civic service projects designed to empower and retain young talent in Great Bend. Tickets are \$50, and include entry, dinner, appetizers, and fun money to get started at the tables. Corporate tables are \$550 and seat 8 people, includes everything listed above as well as a reserved table, extra play money and drink tickets. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for businesses looking to show their support for Great Bend’s future leaders. To purchase tickets visit greatbend.org or to learn about FUEL, visit greatbend.org/fuel. About FUEL: FUEL’s mission is to foster personal growth and strengthen community connections through active engagement and leadership. We aim to empower next-gen talent by creating an environment where members can: · Focus: Set and achieve personal and professional goals · Unite: Build a supportive network of peers · Engage: Participate in impactful projects and initiatives · Lead: Develop leadership skills for career and community influence

Barton County Commission meeting

It’s incredibly unusual for the Barton County Commission to hear only one item on its agenda, but that’s what happened on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Chris Schartz, County Works Director, explained that earlier this year, County administrative staff met with Venture to determine a cost-effective method for enhancing cold mix operations. After that discussion, it was determined that the County would move asphalt preparation to Venture. With Venture mixing the asphalt and providing all aggregates and sand, the County can receive fresh asphalt prepared with purer ingredients. In addition, the County will avoid costs associated with on-site production, storage and material aging. To date, that process has been working extremely well. The asphalt is easier to work with and staff has had no issue getting product. Our appreciation to Venture for this win-win arrangement. Road and Bridge is in daily contact with Venture as to need. We’re freed up staff to work on other tasks and this has been a great pivot in our operations. Schartz did note that he updates the County’s website – found under Road Closures – to let the public know where staff is working. That said – his department will always work with farmers getting into their fields. Commissioner Reif thanked Schartz for having equipment at local touch a truck events. The latest being in Claflin. There was no Executive Session. It was announced that in reference to the Golden Belt and Hillcrest Memorial Parks and Cemeteries, all decorations may be placed on graves seven (7) days prior to and shall be removed seven (7) days (after) Memorial Day. Employees will not attempt to find items after being so removed. Additionally, Barton County will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to any appropriate, ornamental items left on any lot, grave or other part of the memorial parks or cemeteries during the listed holiday periods. Resolution 2022-08, Regulations for Barton County Owned and Operated Memorial Parks and Cemeteries, available upon request. The remainder of the day was spent in interviewing media consultants and preparing for the upcoming projects, to include the 2026 budget. We certainly appreciate our administrative team for being mindful of priorities and arranging work days that are heavy on discussion. Commissioner Barb Esfeld gave a reminder of upcoming legislative updates. The KNRC continues to work on water issues. Commissioner Donna Zimmerman attended the last LEPC meeting. Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson reminded the public that the filing deadline for local government positions is ending soon. Commission meetings are live-streamed via Microsoft Teams each week. The link is found on our website, www.bartoncounty.org, and on our Facebook page, Barton County KS. I do appreciate the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Commission for 2025. I value your input on County operations and urge you to contact your elected officials with your ideas and expectations. We represent you and cannot do that to the fullest without a collaborative relationship with you and our neighbors. Please call me at 620.562.7744 or email me at tschlessiger@bartoncounty.org to talk all things Barton County.

Track	
continued from page 6	51.63
Borrer, Ritchie, Joiner)	800m—4—Grose,
High jump—3—Ritchie,	2:08.97
5-0	1,600m—2—Pohlman,
Long jump—1—Wirtz,	4:38.53
18-53/4	3,200m—3—Pohlman,
HILL CITY 2A BOYS	10:43.87
(TOP 3 SQ)	400m relay—2—Ellin-
BOYS TEAM	wood, 45.1 (Simpson,
SCORES—1—Smith	Broyles, Schartz, Sunder-
Center 107; 2—Phillips-	land)
burg 61; 3—Ellinwood	1,600m relay—5 SQ—
58	Ellinwood, 3:36.89
ELLINWOOD	(Schartz, Behnke, Sun-
RESULTS	derland, Simpson)
200m—4—Sunderland,	Long jump—1—Simp-
23.67	son, 22-63/4 (school
300m hurdles—6—Bro-	record)
yles, 43.83	Pole vault—1—Merritt,
400m—5 SQ—Simpson,	12-0

Letter to the editor policy:

Letters should be short-300 words is best-and address only one point. No more than one letter per writer, per month. Letters must have signature, printed name and address for publication and telephone number for verification purposes only. Under no circumstances will an unsigned letter be published. Letters abusing the standards of good taste or containing libelous or untrue statements, personal attacks or insults will be rejected. Letters of solicitation will not be published. Letters from political candidates as well as letters for or in opposition of candidates will be treated as advertisements, and will be published only at regular advertising rates with a disclaimer included. The ad must be paid in advanced before publication.

Smoky Hills PBS Share A Story Hits Local Libraries this Summer

BUNKER HILL – Smoky Hills PBS is excited to announce the return of its Share A Story program, bringing educational fun to communities across Central and Western Kansas. This program is designed to share free educational resources, story time, and engaging activities with our youngest viewers and their families. This summer, Share A Story will travel to over 80 local libraries throughout Kansas, offering a 45-60 minute program geared toward children ages 2-7. This year’s theme will be Curious George! Each program consists of the following format: 1. Read it – Read a PBS KIDS book 2. Watch it – View a show related to the book 3. Do it – Have fun making a craft Each participant receives his or her own book and related materials. Share a Story helps children become better readers by inspiring adults to read to children every day. Research shows that activities like these make a difference. Children who are read to every day, from birth on, do better in school, become good listeners and writers, and have better language, critical and imaginative skills. Simple, fun daily activities like reading aloud, storytelling, rhyming, singing, exercise, drawing, and acting, teach young children language and literacy skills – and that’s what Smoky Hills PBS Share a Story is all about! The Share a Story program begins in libraries across central and western Kansas starting May 29th. A complete schedule of Share a Story events can be found at SmokyHillsPBS.org.

DEADLINE for NEWS COPY, LEGALS, and ADVERTISING for the Ellinwood Leader: 10:00 AM TUESDAY