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Great Bend CVB Launches Multimedia Tour Inviting Visitors to Experience the Cheyenne Bottoms and the Kansas Wetlands & Wildlife Scenic Byway Like Never Before

GPS Ranger™ handheld devices use unique technology to enhance visitors' educational experience!

Great Bend, Kansas (November 23, 2009) – Great Bend has long been a leader in regional tourism, serving as a convenient jumping off point for exploring the nation's largest interior marsh and birding wonderland at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Now visitors can experience these natural wonders and learn more while doing so with the assistance of a GPS guided video tour; learning more about the region's unique land, plants, and animals is easy and fun with the assistance of a multimedia GPS Ranger™ tour guide device. Informative and educational narrated videos automatically play as guests drive along two tour routes.

The GPS Ranger is a patented handheld computer device that delivers on-site interpretation, including compelling video, audio, musical soundtrack, animation and nature photography based on the location of the user through the power of GPS (Global Positioning System) technology. Visitors can rent the units from several area hotels including the Comfort Inn, Best Western Angus Inn, Travelers Budget Inn, and at the CVB for only \$10, and then are on their way to explore the area in the privacy of their own vehicles. In addition to interpretive videos about what they are seeing, visitors will be offered directional driving instructions to help them stay on the tour path.

Visitors can choose to explore the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, a tour with an hour of compelling videos, or the longer Kansas Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway, a tour which includes over 90 minutes of interpretive information. With 36 different video segments between the two tours, visitors will learn about diverse topics including:

- **Bird, birds, birds** – Cheyenne Bottoms is located along the main migration corridor between Canada and South America, and three hundred and thirty-five different species of birds have been seen here! Learn which birds, some interesting facts and how to spot them.
- **Critters among the cattails** – From coyotes to muskrats, there are 44 different species of mammals that call Cheyenne Bottoms their home. Learn about the biodiversity and the important balance that these animals help maintain in the region's ecosystem.

- **Scenic Byway Ecology & Geology** – This region offers a unique and delicate ecosystem in which diverse flora and fauna can thrive. Learn about the relationship between the plants and waters of this area as well as the geology of the prairie bioregion.
- **Native American History** – The Native American people of this area, known as the Plains Indians, have been an influential force in this region for hundreds of years. Learn about their history, lifestyle and some of their interesting stories and legends, presented through animated video segments.

Visitors rent the device, which includes a car charger to plug into the vehicle's cigarette lighter or power point, and are on their way to exploring the area at their own pace. Though tour videos trigger as visitors drive along the tour route, all of the tour content can be viewed on demand, regardless of location, so visitors can learn about the areas they might not have visited.

The project was funded by the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau and designed to provide much needed interpretation for the area's unique natural sites.

The GPS Ranger tour guide system was designed by BarZ Adventures which also created the tour content in connection with the Great Bend CVB.

The tours are available in English. For more information, contact the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau at 620-792-2750 or at information@visitgreatbend.com.

ABOUT BARZ ADVENTURES INC

BarZ Adventures Inc, founded in 2005, is an Austin, TX based company combining experts in the fields of computer delivery systems and interpretive content development. BarZ Adventures has designed the patented GPS Ranger® and Zoo Ranger® system, the Ranger Quest™ GPS gaming system and GoExplore™ Smartphone application software, with large venues and their visitors in mind – its sole mission is to enhance the visitor experience at high visitation locations using modern technology. GPS Ranger tours are currently available at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Vicksburg National Military Park, Death Valley National Park, Shenandoah National Park, and Independence National Historical Park. Zoo Ranger tours are available at the San Francisco Zoo, Dallas Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo and Santa Barbara Zoo. Historic walking and driving tours are available in Key West and St. Augustine, Florida, Bermuda, Victoria, British Columbia, Stockyards Station in Ft. Worth, Austin, Texas, Sedona, Arizona and Poplar Forest in Virginia. Additional tours are coming soon to Santa Catalina Island (California), St. Kitts and Gran Canaria in the Canary Islands. The first Ranger Quest gaming adventure, Spy in the City™ is available at the International Spy Museum in Washington D.C. For more information, log on to www.barzadventures.com or call (512) 732-0135.

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