

CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

March 2022 Volume 62, Number 2



AT A GLANCE *Mark your Calendar!*

Ribbon Cutting March 12
Cozy Inn
108 N. Seventh - 12Noon

Business After Hours March 17
JAB IT LLC
2680 Planet Ave. - 5-7pm

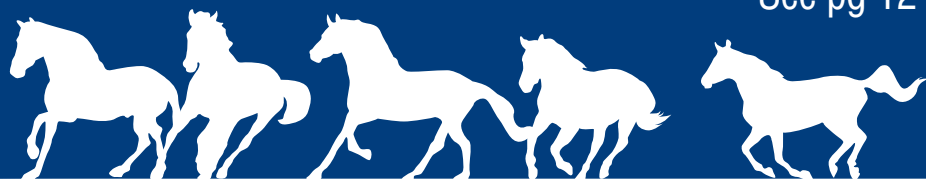
Details inside!

Mid-America Farm Expo

See pg 03

Equifest Kansas Rides Again!

See pg 12





Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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From the CEO



Eric L. Brown

March Madness is apropos on so many levels as we begin March 2022. Madness in the sense of just how busy and how many events, programs, and opportunities are springing up right now! Global events, federal funding and bills, state budgets and grant funding, local housing and workforce needs, the list of quality opportunities that our local businesses and organizations of all sizes are working towards is truly mind boggling and requires a lot of focus to make sure you can cut through all the madness to reach a point of providing true support! Support in March is a common theme for our Chamber and our Visit Salina division because of the many sporting events and other visitor impact events held in the community.

Two of those we highlight in this publication, both of which are tied to the agricultural sector and happening this month; the Chamber's Mid-America Farm Expo and Equifest of Kansas All-Breed Horse Fair and Exposition. This is the 57th year of the Mid-America Farm Expo and the 25th Anniversary of Equifest, both are primed to be great shows and attract a lot of visitors for numerous days, and both are being held at Tony's Pizza Events Center and Saline County Livestock and Expo Center.

The Farm Expo is back to pre-pandemic levels regarding our exhibits, and we anticipate great attendance again this year as both masks and hesitancy to be in crowds has dropped. We have great ag seminar programming which includes Ag Policies post COVID, Commodity Outlooks, Soil Health, Precision Ag, and Ways to Reduce Input Costs. All of these are very timely given the pressures that ag community and its producers are facing.

The Chamber's Ag Committee continues to be one of the most dedicated and supportive volunteer groups, and their passion can be seen as the work towards making this event successful happens. These men and women work on every aspect of the Expo, from marking off exhibit spaces to registering exhibitors to assisting exhibitors setting up their displays. The site staff at TPEC and the Saline County facilities are also great to work with and are very accommodating. There is no admission charge and parking is free, so come by and see what is happening, March 23, 24 and 25th at the Mid America Farm Expo. See the article on page 3 for hours and times of the show.

Best,

Eric L. Brown President/CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

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Time For the Mid-America Farm Show 2022

Ag related businesses from around the United States can be seen exhibiting their products and services on March 23rd-25th at the 57th annual Mid America Farm Expo. More than 215 exhibits will be on display showing the latest in farm technology, machinery, equipment and more. The event is headquartered at Tony's Pizza Events Center and Saline County Livestock and Expo Center.

Over the last 55 years the Mid America Farm Expo has grown exponentially attracting thousands of people over the three-day show. The Expo is now one of the largest Spring farm shows in the Midwest. The Expo is headquartered in Tony's Pizza Events Center, with additional displays in Agricultural Hall and Exhibition Barn at the Saline County Livestock and Expo Center. Outside exhibits are in front of Ag Hall and in the West parking lot of Tony's Pizza Events Center.



Special sessions each day include:

WEDNESDAY:



Benjamin Brown

- Ag Policies in an Uncertain World, Ben Brown, Sr. research Associate/ University of Missouri Extension and the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute
- Power of Ag Producer Wisdom-A 2022 Agricultural Outlook, Ben Brown



KANSAS
Soil Health
ALLIANCE

THURSDAY:



Jennifer Simmelink

- Precision Ag & Ag Data, Prairieland Partners
- Real World Soil Health Panel, Jennifer Simmelink, Coordinator/Kansas Soil Health Alliance, and Producer Panel



JOHN DEERE

FRIDAY:



Matt Hines

- Commodity Market Outlook, Matt Hines, Commodity Broker/ Loewen & Associates, Inc.

There will also be free water testing each day, 10am-2pm.

For more information about the 57th Annual Mid America Farm Expo, contact LaCrista Brightbill at the Chamber! There is no charge for admission or parking. Show hours are 9am-5pm March 23 & 24, and 9am-2pm March 25. We hope to see you there!



take **5** to meet



Owner(s): **Scott Gordine**

Email: scott@smgunlimited.com



What service/product do you provide?

We provide Managed IT Services for small and medium-sized businesses. Our services include cyber security, ransomware prevention, and networking solutions. We also provide email hosting, spam filtering, local and cloud data backup, disaster recovery, and consulting services.

When did you start your business and why?

We started helping a few local businesses with their IT needs in 2012. Many small & medium businesses did not have their own internal IT staff so there was an underserved need to fill, and we did that. Technology has become so important today for all businesses to operate and having an IT partner not only keeps devices running at top performance, but also protects them from cyber threats.

Anything else you would like the community to know?

We install and manage VOIP telephones, security cameras, and door access controls.

What is something that no one knows about you?

I am a classic car and drag racing enthusiast. For 25 years I have raced in NHRA events around the country and have won four track championships.



Tell us a memorable experience that you have had in your business:

Recently we attended our first global conference of IT Professionals in Las Vegas. This event allowed us to connect and develop relationships with other Managed Service Providers across the world and share stories and ideas.

See the entire interview, and others, posted at:
<https://www.salinakansas.org/take-5.html>

Support Local Charities at **MATCH MADNESS!**

The annual MATCH MADNESS GIVING DAY is happening – in person – March 24 at Salina Fieldhouse. Donations will be collected, and matched, in the following ways:

- Donate in person at the Salina Fieldhouse, 140 N. 5th St. from 7am-7pm
- Donate online at www.marchmadnessgscf.org 12am–11:59pm
- Mail cash or check donations with a completed donation form to the Greater Salina Community Foundation, PO Box 2876, Salina, KS 67402-2876. These must be postmarked March 24, 2022.

Enjoy events throughout the day at the Salina Fieldhouse including:

- Donation Station
- Watching the NCAA Tournament
- Food Trucks
- Non-Profit Booths
- Free Throw and Half-Court Shot Contest
- Free Snacks

NOTE:
Event details are subject to change pending local COVID-19 restrictions

SAVE the DATE

Have you ever wanted to join a Board or Civic Committee but don't know where to start? More information coming soon!

—

SPRINGBOARD
04 . 13 . 22
9am - 4pm
Kansas Wesleyan University



RIBBON CUTTINGS



The Garage, 134 S. 4th, celebrated their grand opening with a Ribbon Cutting. The Garage is a world-class museum which educates young and old through entertaining interactive displays, serves as a gathering place for enthusiasts from around the globe, and develops industry/sponsor partnerships to encourage restoration and preservation of automotive treasures.



Kansas Physical Therapy Partners LLC, 405 E Iron Ave, celebrated their grand opening with a Ribbon Cutting! Kansas PT Partners delivers the highest level of physical therapy care to the Salina, Kansas community and surrounding areas. Their patient-first physical therapists are accredited Orthopedic Clinical Specialists who deliver an educated, optimized recovery experience that is grounded in research evidence, informed by experience, and continually evolving with industry standards.



The Mike Finnigan School of Music at the Stiefel Theatre, 151 S. Santa Fe, Ste. 203, celebrated the start of classes with a Ribbon cutting! The Mike Finnigan School of Music offers group music lessons on a variety of instruments to students of all ages. Classes are taught in a group format. Students meet for 50 minutes a week for 8 weeks of instruction, culminating in a recital performed on the Stiefel stage. The school is currently enrolling for classes in Guitar, Piano, Ukulele, and Jug Band! Registration for their next session is open and runs through March 16th. Space is limited, so enroll early by visiting - www.stiefeltheatre.org/school-of-music



The Buckle, 2450 S. 9th Street, celebrated their grand opening with a Ribbon Cutting! The Buckle is striving to be their guests one stop shop when it comes to apparel and shoes! They are ecstatic for the future and look forward to helping you with all your apparel needs!



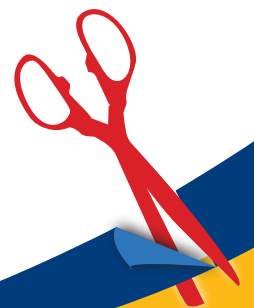
JOIN US!

Saturday, March 12

Cozy Inn

108 N. Seventh - Noon

Join us for a very special ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 12 at 12:00 Noon, when will commemorate the 100th Year Anniversary of the Cozy Inn March 12 is the date recorded as their first day in business, and this event will kick-off a celebration that will continue through 2022. There will be prizes throughout the day. Come on downtown to the Cozy Inn, 108 N. Seventh, and congratulate owner Steve Howard and his staff!





WELCOME ABOARD

New Members

THE BATH PUB

Kelli Webb
(785) 820-8161
109 S. Santa Fe

CAPITOL FEDERAL SAVINGS

Jake Wise
(785) 825-7121
2550 S. Ninth Street

RECYCLOPS

Jonas Silver
(919) 520-0130
www.recyclops.com

SMOKY HILL APPRAISAL

Clint Glaser
(785)404-1075
105 S. 5th Street

BAROLO GRILLE

Jason Cao
112 S. Santa Fe
(785) 833-2272

TOM HEMMER

SMOKY HILL FINANCIAL GROUP

Eric Hawk
2036 S. Ohio
(785) 309-7006



RED TEAM Project Update

SPRINGBOARD

BOARD SERVICE TRAINING

As a direct result of a Leadership Salina 2021 group project, the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce and Kansas Wesleyan University have partnered to bring you a 1-day immersive board service training program designed to provide access, development, training, and education on the expectations of serving on a board. Springboard participants will learn typical board responsibilities, governance, procedures, ways to support the executive director and discuss how they respond to specific board scenarios. This project was funded in part by a grant from the Dane G. Hansen Community Grant Fund of the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

Springboard's inaugural class will be on April 13, 2022. No previous experience is required for participation. Please note the program fee is \$60 per participant, with scholarships available for those in need. Additionally, there are sponsorship opportunities for local business partners. Springboard is ready to equip, educate, and empower you! For more information, please visit our [website](#).

For more on this project and other Leadership Salina information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/leadershipsalina>

CELEBRATE PROGRESS!



2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, providing equal access for girls in sports. During the KSHSAA Class 4A Girls' Basketball Championships, Kendra Wecker will make a special appearance to celebrate this achievement. Originally from Marysville, KS, Wecker played NCAA basketball for the Kansas State Wildcats, and then progressed to the WNBA. Wecker will present the game ball to officials, and Championship and Runner Up team awards."



In The News

EXLINE, INC., 3256 E. Country Club Rd., was founded in 1872 by R.W. Exline in Abilene, KS. Now, 150 years, five



generations, one new complex, and hundreds of employees later, Rob Exline continues the family legacy. Through unrivaled service, innovation, and growth, Exline continues to adapt to ever-changing markets with demonstrated ingenuity and versatility. Join us as we celebrate 150 years of success and look with excitement towards the future.

GOT NEWS?

Do you have news to share about your business or organization? Email srice@salinakansas.org and we'll publish it in an upcoming issue of *Chamber Connection*.



Three additional staff members at **CENTRAL KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**, 809 Elmhurst, have passed certification to become Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainers. Gretchen Boyum, Julie Clayson, and Taylor Haws recently participated in a training course with other Community Mental Health Center employees from across Kansas. Upon completion of the course and evaluation they received the necessary certification to provide Adult MHFA training to community

members. MHFA teaches people how to safely and responsibly respond to and support people who are experiencing a mental health challenge, substance use disorder, or a crisis, using a proven action plan and evidence-based tools. MHFA takes the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and helps reduce stigma. When more people are equipped with the tools they need to start a dialogue, more people can get the help they need. For more information on Central Kansas Mental Health Center or any of the organization's services call 785-823-6322 or visit our website at www.ckmhc.org.



Assurance Partners and Keller Leopold Insurance merged in September of 2021. This change provides the opportunity to unify and solidify

brand identity in ways that empower their one-company vision. The name of the new agency is **IRON INSURANCE PARTNERS**. With a combined 130 years of experience as a full-service, independent agency, they deliver leadership in risk management and analytic brokerage services, coupled with farm, agriculture and crop insurance expertise and service. Clients will continue to get the same professionalism, integrity, quality of work, personalized service and attention to detail from the people you've come to know and trust over the years. Contact your agent or account manager to learn more about expanded services.

U-HAUL recently released their "Top 100" Dealer Rankings for January 2022. **CITYWIDE STORAGE**,



440 N. Ohio, was ranked 53rd among in the nation from more than 17,000 dealers! Congratulations to Citywide General Manager Tim Frederking and his staff for this tremendous success!



SAINT FRANCIS MINISTRIES, 110 W. Otis Avenue, is hosting a Career Fair on March 16, 10am-3pm, at the

Stevens Center on their campus. They hope to fill open positions for Cooks, Housekeepers, LPNs, Permanency Specialists, RNs and Therapists. They offer competitive benefits and have a \$1,000 sign-on bonus for Therapists and RNs. For more information contact Kasie Smith at Kasie.Smith@st-francis.org or call (785) 643-2850

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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[Imagine Salina](#) CLICK



Download the

SALINA 67401

App!



Featuring the NEW Visit Salina Guide, SalinaAE.com Calendar, Chamber Business Directory, Special Offers and MORE!



THANK YOU

to these Chamber members who continue to support our programs through their membership renewal.

- ▶ 3J's Steam Cleaning
- ▶ 404-Move Inc.
- ▶ Access Control Systems
- ▶ Access Storage, Inc.
- ▶ Advantage Trust Company
- ▶ Airgas
- ▶ Aldi
- ▶ Alliance Insurance Group
- ▶ Allmetal Recycling Salina
- ▶ American AgCredit
- ▶ American Boiler & Mechanical
- ▶ Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
- ▶ The Arnold Group
- ▶ Arrow Printing Company
- ▶ Ashby House
- ▶ Atop Realty LLC
- ▶ Avflight Salina Corp.
- ▶ Bankers Security
- ▶ R. Michael Beatty
- ▶ Bell Memorials LLC
- ▶ Bennington State Bank/Salina
- ▶ Benson Accounting, CPA, PA
- ▶ Best-One Tire & Service
- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina
- ▶ Blackwell and Struble, LLC.
- ▶ Blondell's Salon Spa & Boutique
- ▶ Blue Beacon
- ▶ Blush and Blossoms Co.
- ▶ The Buckle
- ▶ Burns & McDonnell
- ▶ Cabinet Connection
- ▶ Cancer Center of Kansas
- ▶ Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
- ▶ Central Kansas Extension District #3
- ▶ Central Kansas Mental Health Center
- ▶ Central Plains Business Forms, Inc.
- ▶ Central States Enterprises
- ▶ Cheney Door Salina
- ▶ Chick-fil-A
- ▶ Child Advocacy & Parenting Services
- ▶ Chili's Grill & Bar
- ▶ Chiropractic Wellness Center
- ▶ Christ Episcopal Cathedral
- ▶ Christ the King Lutheran Church
- ▶ Chuck's Bar & Grill
- ▶ City of Salina
- ▶ Citywide Storage
- ▶ CKF Addiction Treatment, Inc.
- ▶ The Cleaning Lady
- ▶ Club Carwash - Broadway
- ▶ Club Carwash - Marketplace
- ▶ Coldwell Banker Antrim-Piper, Wenger Realtors - Chris Rost
- ▶ Commercial Tire Centers, Inc.
- ▶ Communities in Schools of Mid-America
- ▶ Complete Floor Covering Inc.
- ▶ ComPro Realty
- ▶ Conic Apps, LLC
- ▶ Consolidated Printing & Stationery
- ▶ Copeland Insurance Agency, Inc.
- ▶ Coperion K-Tron Salina
- ▶ Courtyard by Marriott Salina
- ▶ Crossroads Collision, Inc.
- ▶ Crown Distributors, LLC.
- ▶ Culligan of Salina
- ▶ DS&O Electric Cooperative
- ▶ Dairy Queen No. 1
- ▶ Dental Care of Salina
- ▶ Design Central, LLC
- ▶ Diederich, Daniel K., Attorney at Law
- ▶ Dignity Care Home
- ▶ Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
- ▶ DRCL Electric, Inc.
- ▶ Drs. Driver & Clark, Optometrist, PA
- ▶ Edward Jones - Don Simoneau, Financial Advisor
- ▶ Edward Jones - Matt Dill, Financial Advisor
- ▶ Ellsworth County Independent - Reporter
- ▶ Exline, Inc.
- ▶ Express Employment Professionals
- ▶ EyeCare Associates of Salina, L.L.C.
- ▶ Family Hair Flair
- ▶ Farm Bureau Financial Services - Mike Losik
- ▶ Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Commission
- ▶ Ferco Rental, Inc.
- ▶ First United Methodist Church
- ▶ The Flower Nook
- ▶ Foley Equipment Company
- ▶ Fresh Look Dry Cleaning
- ▶ Gateway Real Estate Agency
- ▶ Ginder Hydraulic, L.C.
- ▶ Glass Services
- ▶ The Golf Shop
- ▶ Goodwill Retail

(Continued on Page 9)



- ▶ Grain Belt Supply Company
- ▶ Great Plains Association of REALTORS
- ▶ Great Plains Federal Credit Union
- ▶ Great Plains Manufacturing Co.
- ▶ GreatLife Golf & Fitness
- ▶ Ken Guest
- ▶ John Gunn
- ▶ H & R Block
- ▶ Hair Loft Salon
- ▶ Hajoca Corporation
- ▶ Harbin Construction, LLC
- ▶ Hassman Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
- ▶ HCB Management Services
- ▶ Heartland Dermatology Center, PA
- ▶ Hickory Hut Barbeque
- ▶ Highland Meadows Hamlet
- ▶ Holm Buick GMC
- ▶ Home Builders Association of Salina, Inc.
- ▶ Hometown Disposal Inc.
- ▶ Hong Kong Buffet
- ▶ HouseMaster Home Inspection
- ▶ HUB International
- ▶ Hutton Corporation
- ▶ Imperial Garden Express
- ▶ Iron Insurance Partners
- ▶ ISG Technology
- ▶ Jerry Diehl Construction
- ▶ Jerry's Professional Cleaning Service
- ▶ Jim's Formal Wear, LLC
- ▶ Steven Johnson, State Representative
- ▶ Johnstown Towers Apartments
- ▶ JRI Hospitality
- ▶ Ka-Comm Inc.
- ▶ KanEquip
- ▶ Kansas Bankers Technologies, LLC
- ▶ Kansas Coring & Cutting
- ▶ Kansas Gas Service
- ▶ Kansas Public Media Center, Inc.
- ▶ Kansas Secured Title
- ▶ Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus
- ▶ Kape Roofing & Exteriors KRE Inc.
- ▶ KCoe Isom, LLP
- ▶ Wally Kearns
- ▶ Kejr, Inc.
- ▶ Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich & Williamson, Chtd.
- ▶ Key Rexall Pharmacy
- ▶ K-Four Trailer Sales
- ▶ Koers-Davis Consulting Service, Inc.
- ▶ KU School of Medicine - Salina
- ▶ KU School of Nursing - Salina Campus
- ▶ KWCH
- ▶ Linda M. Lawrence, MD
- ▶ Lockton Companies
- ▶ Luminous Neon, Art & Sign Systems, Inc.
- ▶ Lundgrin Dental Associates
- ▶ Maas Paint & Paper, LLC
- ▶ Mahaney Group
- ▶ Mahaska
- ▶ Marketing Angle
- ▶ Marshall Motor Co., Inc.
- ▶ Senator Roger Marshall
- ▶ David Martin, Independent Marketing Consultant
- ▶ Martinelli's Little Italy
- ▶ McCownGordon Construction
- ▶ McDonald's of Salina, Inc.
- ▶ McKenna Law Office, P.A.
- ▶ MDF Industries
- ▶ Mid-Kansas Title Co., Inc.
- ▶ Midwest Single Source, Inc.
- ▶ The Mortgage Company
- ▶ Morton Buildings, Inc.
- ▶ Mowery Clinic, L.L.C.
- ▶ My Lawn! Turf & Tree
- ▶ Neuschafer & Associates, Inc.- American Family Ins
- ▶ New Horizon Services, Inc.
- ▶ Nex-Tech
- ▶ North Central KS Coordinated Transit Council, Inc
- ▶ Oakdale Plaza Apartments
- ▶ Oard's Auto & Truck Repairs
- ▶ OCCK, Inc.
- ▶ Occupational Performance Corporation
- ▶ Orschlen Farm & Home L.L.C.
- ▶ Papa John's Pizza
- ▶ Papa Murphy's
- ▶ Paramount Bar
- ▶ Pathway Financial Solutions
- ▶ PB & J
- ▶ Pestinger Distributing
- ▶ Pestinger Heating & Air Conditioning
- ▶ The Phone Connection Voice Networks
- ▶ Point Guard University
- ▶ Ponton Construction, Inc.
- ▶ Prairie Capital Advisors, Inc.
- ▶ Precision Electrical Contractors L.L.C.
- ▶ Precision Machine & Welding Inc.
- ▶ Premier Food Service
- ▶ The Pride Group/Pride Golf Cars

(Continued on Page 10)



- ▶ R & J Mailing Services
- ▶ RAMACO, Inc.
- ▶ Rebecca Jane's
- ▶ The Renaissance Cafe
- ▶ REPCO
- ▶ Riddle's Jewelry
- ▶ Riffel Development Company Inc.
- ▶ Rolling Hills Zoo
- ▶ Charles Roth
- ▶ Russell's Restaurant
- ▶ Ryan Roofing, Inc.
- ▶ Sacred Heart Cathedral
- ▶ Sage Oak Wealth Partners
- ▶ Salina Building Company, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Community Theatre, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Dental Arts
- ▶ Salina Education Foundation
- ▶ Salina Family YMCA
- ▶ Salina Foot Clinic, P.A.
- ▶ Salina Housing Authority
- ▶ Salina Journal
- ▶ Salina Massage Therapy
- ▶ Salina Medical Esthetics
- ▶ Salina Presbyterian Manor
- ▶ Salina Regional Home Medical Services
- ▶ Salina Rescue Mission, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Scale Sales & Service Inc.
- ▶ Salina Surgical Hospital
- ▶ Salina Symphony
- ▶ Salina Vortex Corporation
- ▶ Salina Waste Systems
- ▶ Salina/Salina Co. Crimestoppers Association
- ▶ SalinaHomes.com - Todd Welsh
- ▶ Saline County
- ▶ Saline County Fair Association
- ▶ The Salvation Army
- ▶ Sanity Boutique
- ▶ The Scheme
- ▶ ServiceMaster of Salina
- ▶ Sherwin-Williams Company
- ▶ Showcase Jewelers
- ▶ Sign Gypsies - Salina Area
- ▶ Sign Pro of Central Kansas
- ▶ SMG Unlimited
- ▶ Harry Smith
- ▶ Smoky Hill Health & Rehabilitation
- ▶ Smoky Hill, L.L.C.
- ▶ Snack Express
- ▶ Soggy Dog Salon & Suites, Inc.
- ▶ Solomon State Bank
- ▶ Sonic Drive-In #2
- ▶ Southwind Physical Therapy, Inc.
- ▶ SSC Advisors, Inc.
- ▶ St. John's Military School Historical Museum
- ▶ Stardust Trophy Company
- ▶ State Farm - Robert Pruett Agency, Inc.
- ▶ State Farm Insurance - Bary Martin
- ▶ Suburban TV and Appliance Center, Inc.
- ▶ Sunflower Adult Day Services
- ▶ Sunflower Bank, N.A.
- ▶ Sunflower Carpet Plus
- ▶ Super 8 I-70
- ▶ Synergy HR Solutions, LLC
- ▶ Team Employment, LLC
- ▶ The Alley
- ▶ The Ridge of Salina
- ▶ Total Turfcare, Inc.
- ▶ Triad Mfg., Inc.
- ▶ Trinity Hospice
- ▶ Trinity Lutheran Church
- ▶ Truck Center Companies
- ▶ Tucson's Steakhouse Saloon & Grill
- ▶ Turbocharge Solutions International
- ▶ UMB Bank
- ▶ United Capital Management of Kansas, Inc.
- ▶ United Radiology Group
- ▶ USD 306 School District
- ▶ UV&S
- ▶ Valmont Coatings Salina Galvanizing
- ▶ Vernon Jewelers of Salina, Inc.
- ▶ Vita-Villa
- ▶ Volunteers of America, OK
- ▶ Waddle's Heating & Cooling
- ▶ Watson Electric, Inc.
- ▶ Wearing Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
- ▶ Webster Conference Center
- ▶ Wedel Financial Group
- ▶ Gary B. Weiner, MD, Chtd
- ▶ Weis Fire & Safety Equipment, LLC
- ▶ Welborn Sales, Inc.
- ▶ Wells Fargo Advisors
- ▶ World Pest Control (Tox-Eol)
- ▶ WPM Pathology Laboratory
- ▶ Wray Roofing
- ▶ Lynn R. Wuthnow, D.D.S., P.A.
- ▶ Yesteryear Museum

Thank You



ANNIKA SÖRENSTAM TO HEADLINE 2022 SENIOR LPGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Fifth playing of LPGA senior major championship to be contested in Kansas for first time

On the heels of filing her entry into the 2022 U.S. Women’s Open at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club, where she won the major championship in 1996, **Annika Sörenstam** continues to add to her competition schedule. The LPGA and World Golf Hall of Fame member will headline the 78-player field for the 2022 Senior LPGA Championship, contested July 22-24 at Salina Country Club in Salina.

It will mark the first LPGA Tour-family event for Sörenstam in the state of Kansas since her runner-up finish in the 2002 U.S. Women’s Open at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, located just 65 miles south of Salina Country Club.

“I’m looking forward to getting back to Kansas for the first time in years to compete in my first Senior LPGA Championship,” said Sörenstam, a 10-time LPGA major champion. “The LPGA has meant so much to me and my career, so I want to support this event. We appreciate the opportunity to play.”

Juli Inkster, another LPGA and World Golf Hall of Fame member, will also highlight the collection of all-time greats converging on the Sunflower State for the Senior LPGA Championship, one of two majors on the Legends of the LPGA circuit along with the U.S. Senior Women’s Open Championship hosted by the USGA.

“We all love the game and thrill of competition. For Salina Country Club to open its doors and give us a first-class stage to continue our passion is an incredible opportunity,” said Inkster, a 31-time LPGA Tour champion including the 2002 U.S. Women’s Open at Prairie Dunes Country Club. “I have fond memories from my years spent in Kansas, especially the U.S. Women’s Open 20 years ago. It will be great to make new ones when everyone gets together in Salina this summer.”

The Pete Dye Course at French Lick Resort in French Lick, Ind., hosted the Senior LPGA Championship on four occasions from 2017-2019 and in 2021. Englishwoman **Trish Johnson** is the only two-time winner of the Stephen L. Ferguson Trophy, having won the first and last editions in the Hoosier State. Competition now shifts to Salina Country Club, which is owned and managed by JRI Hospitality.

“We look forward to showcasing Salina Country Club and the city of Salina to a national audience,” said Jason Ingermanson, a Salina native and JRI Hospitality President, Founder and CEO. “The LPGA Tour will help put a spotlight on the exceptional community we live in, and we’re thankful that they have selected Salina to host such an exciting senior women’s major championship.”

“This is a major chapter in the history of Salina Country Club,” said Chris Nickell, General Manager and Operating Partner of Salina Country Club. “We are excited to share our story on a grand scale.”

[Love, Chloe Foundation](#) will be the proud beneficiary of the 2022 Senior LPGA Championship.

ABOUT SALINA COUNTRY CLUB

With nearby Smoky Hill River cascading along the edge of the property, Salina Country Club was established in 1911 and sits atop Tom White Hill,

just east of the city providing an impressive landmark. A 40,000 square-foot clubhouse serves as the area’s hub for social activities, including three dining areas featuring fireplaces and separate bar facilities. A magnificent 18-hole championship golf course offers members and guests with a superb and challenging layout while other club amenities include four lighted tennis courts, a spacious swimming pool with a 163-foot water slide, and fully equipped fitness center.

ABOUT THE LPGA

The LPGA is the world’s leading professional golf organization for women, with a goal to change the face of golf by making the sport more accessible and inclusive.

Created in 1950 by 13 Founders, the Association celebrates a diverse and storied history. The LPGA Tour competes across the globe, reaching television audiences in more than 220 countries. The Epson Tour, the LPGA’s official qualifying tour, consistently produces a pipeline of talent ready for the world stage. The LPGA also holds a joint-venture collaboration with the Ladies European Tour (LET), increasing playing opportunities for female golfers in Europe. Across the Tours, the LPGA represents players in more than sixty countries.

Additionally, the LPGA Foundation has empowered and supported girls and women since 1991, most notably through LPGA*USGA Girls Golf, the only national program of its kind, which annually engages with nearly 100,000 girls. The LPGA Amateur Golf Association and LPGA Women’s Network provide virtual and in-person connections to female golfers around the world, while LPGA Professionals are educators, business leaders and gamechangers dedicated to growing the game of golf for everyone.

Follow the LPGA on its U.S. television home, Golf Channel, online at www.LPGA.com and on its [mobile apps](#). Join the social conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

ABOUT LEGENDS OF THE LPGA

Legends of the LPGA is the official senior tour of the LPGA providing competitive opportunities for LPGA Tour professionals and eligible amateurs, age 45 and over. The tour was founded in 2000 by twenty-five veteran LPGA Tour professionals with a goal of showcasing the talents of some of the greatest women golfers of all time. Legends of the LPGA members, including 15 LPGA and World Golf Hall of Fame members, have combined for over 750 LPGA Tour victories including eighty-four major championships. Legends of the LPGA has helped raise approximately \$24 million for charity. For more information about legends of the LPGA contact Zach Sepanik, Manager, LPGA Tour at zachary.sepanik@lpga.com or (386) 795-0594.

MEDIA CONTACT

Zach Sepanik, Manager, LPGA Tour
zachary.sepanik@lpga.com, (386) 795-0594



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EquiFest of Kansas Back in the Salina Saddle!



Tony's Pizza Events Center and Salina CO Livestock and Expo Center will host the [EquiFest of Kansas](#) event for the third year, March 18, 19 & 20, 2022. The event is brought by the Kansas Horse Council and is billed as Kansas' Premier All-Breed Horse Fair & Exposition. Attendees will find a lot to be excited about, particularly during this, their 25th Silver Anniversary.

The vendor show features all things 'equine,' and THEN some! From leather goods to clothing and products for your horses, it is there! In addition to the vendor show, there are guided tours of the Stall Barns, workshops, clinics, entertainment and special guests like Chris Cox, the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers, and the Legendary Kansas Horsemen's Panel. Perhaps best of all, the RANCH RODEO on Friday and Saturday nights and the Trixie Chicks (see sidebar) for perfect family-friendly entertainment, and even a Kids' Corral!

Admission to the event is \$20 for a one-day wristband, or \$50 for a 3-day wristband, available at the Tony's Pizza Events Center Box Office beginning at 9am each day of the event. There are no advance sales. Go to <https://equifestofks.com/> for more information about EquiFest of Kansas 2022!

MEET THE TRIXIE CHICKS

The Trixie Chicks Trick Riders is a group of extreme equestrian athletes that began their career in Missouri and are now based out of Mississippi. Owner, Kelsey Gascon, and Founder, Shelby Epperson, have taken this team to the next level since its start in 2010. Joining them in the arena are some of their outstanding students who are ready to take their skills to the next level. They are Fast, Fearless, and Fabulous! You can find them on their website at www.trxchx.com or on social media and YouTube under the Trixie Chicks Trick Riders to learn more about their programs. www.trxchx.com





Cozy Inn a global treasure in downtown Salina

by Tim Unruh • SPECIAL FEATURE COURTESY OF THE SALINA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Seasoned by decades of duty, the old grill was beginning to sizzle as Andrea (Howard) Windholz smashed small mounds of ground beef into patties and sprinkled them with chopped onions. Outside, a customer wearing construction orange, snarfed an early lunch while soaking up a beautiful spring day. Quiet was soon to wane, however, as meal time approached on the early-March morning at the Cozy Inn in downtown Salina.

Owner Steve Howard — Andrea’s father — noticed through the walk-up ordering window that customers were gathering outside.

“Better fill it up,” he said. That’s Cozy speak for jam the ancient cook top into full throttle for yet another lunch rush at 108 N. Seventh.

On a busy day, the grill will fry up to 55 Cozy Burgers every seven minutes or so — producing 1,700 of them daily from Memorial Day through the summer — requiring 800 pounds of ground beef a week.

The tiny restaurant with one entree and two other menu items — Cozy Burger, chips and soda — isn’t blessed with the amenities of other internationally-known eateries, yet it boasts 45,000 visitors a year, 90 percent of them travelers, some from one of up to 40 countries, Howard said.

With stool seating for six — in a mere 700 square feet of space, customers see only 192 square feet of it — a less-than-ideal location, and a pungent onion-esque aroma that can waft for blocks or stick to clothing, one might surmise a lack of appeal.

But the diner’s sheer charm supplants those voids, Howard said, along with a rich history. Google “best burgers in Kansas” and the Cozy Inn pops up first; at least it did March 3 at 5 p.m. It’s one of the

Eight Wonders of Kansas Cuisine, according to the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

The Cozy has garnered loads of mentions on social media.

Made fresh daily, Cozy Burgers covet global attention, and the inn has survived all the ups and downs of nearly a century in business.

A big birthday party is planned March 12 when the Cozy Inn reaches 100, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a bouncy house, Hurts Donuts and commemorative T-shirts for sale, and drawings for prizes. “The 100th customer will receive up to 24 free Cozy Burgers,” Howard said.

Festivities begin at 8:30 a.m. Blessed with a sense of homespun marketing and imagination, intense work ethic, and a sincere passion for the fare, Howard has prospered in his 15 years of owning the eatery. “It’s great being involved,” said the 59-year-old restaurateur. “Not many companies last 100 years. I take a lot of pride in that.”

It’s a big miniature business with a huge heart, said Leslie Bishop, executive director of Salina Downtown Inc.

“The Cozy Inn IS Downtown Salina,” she said. “It has survived economic downturns, construction, COVID, and it’s alive and going for 100 years. The Cozy is a landmark for downtown Salina. It’s a destination and an anchor.”

The owner since 2007, Howard is the outright boss who has turned every crumb into profit by massaging literally every aspect of the operation. He can man the grill and quality control, maintain supplies, clean, do most repairs — through savvy, mechanical prowess, common sense and

innovation — while also greeting, welcoming and befriending customers, and melding marketing and promotions into most any action, including a claim that the little building in haunted by ghosts who make messes after hours.

He’s also a meticulous record keeper. “I like to tell people these are the Hershey’s kisses of hamburgers,” he said. “You can get a bigger bite of burger, but you can’t get a bigger taste.”

There is even a jingle for the infamous aroma. Howard laughs off the comments and stories of lunchtime Cozy bans from some downtown business owners and managers.

In a way, the smell is a badge of honor, and a way to gauge demand. “The smell pays the bills, for sure,” he said. It’s a scent that evokes thoughts of home and tradition, a special charm, said Max Holthaus, a former Cozy Inn co-owner. “Somebody went into the Cozy Inn, sat down and ate. Then he got on a plane and flew to Denver to make a connecting flight to someplace else. While walking through a throng of people at the airport, he was tapped on a shoulder and a man said ‘Salina, you’ve been to Cozy,’” he said. “I’ve got lots of stories.”

In the early days of involvement, Holthaus noticed a negative reaction from tellers when he took daily deposits to a local bank. But visits to the drive-through were soon welcomed, he said, and the essence morphed into a smell of success.

Cozy Inn chugged its way through a century and won hearts of thousands. Stories abound.

“Some guy was on his death bed, and all he wanted was a Cozy at the end of his life,” Holthaus said. One local grandma made the same request on March 1, Howard said. “A lady got married at the courthouse and came over to the Cozy in her dress (with her new husband) for the reception,” Holthaus said.

While former Gov. Bill Graves served as Kansas Secretary of State, the Salina native often asked staff members to bring Cozy Burgers back to Topeka during their travels through north-central Kansas, Holthaus said, but it enraged officials at the state motor pool.

“Bill Graves loved those Cozy Burgers,” Holthaus said.

Neither Howard nor his living predecessors, have any solid record of who owned the Cozy Inn when it opened in the spring of 1922, although one fan in an Aug. 1, Salina Journal story suggested the founding proprietor was named “Al” with a last name of either “Surreal” or “Surault,” according to an Aug. 1, 1999,



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Salina Journal story by Scott Aldis-Wilson.

The Cozy came to be not long after White Castle, a hamburger restaurant, started in Wichita, according to the Cozy Inn website. Both entities were examples of "a craze of six-stool diners with very limited menus that popped up around the USA," according to the company's history.

The Cozy's second owner, Robert Kinkel, bought the restaurant within three months of its opening. He was in the wake of a semi-professional baseball career in Kansas. Kinkel moved to Salina in search of opportunity, the website reads. Sliders were sold for a nickel back then. They're \$1.39 now.

Cozy Inn trudged through the Depression years by offering "a satisfying, yet inexpensive meal," as the story goes.

The Cozy's popularity soared before and during World War II when the military built installations in Saline County, among them Camp Phillips and Smoky Hill Air Force Base, later named Schilling Air Force Base. The Cozy Inn was a "hangout for GIs needing a good meal on Soldier's pay," according to the restaurant website.



Robert Kinkel and his wife, Kathryn, also ran the business during the 1950s and 1960s (he died in 1960), when youths "became obsessed with hamburgers, soda pop and tucked away joints like the Cozy Inn," according to the website. "The Kinkels were friends with my grandparents (the late Bill and Mattie Schafer). They played cards every weekend during the 1950s," said John Betterton, a longtime Salina resident. Others in the card group were Oscar and Edith Linn, and Mr. and Mrs. Mel Rudy (he couldn't recall her first name). All are deceased.

After Bob Kinkel's passing, Kathryn continued "The Cozy legacy," eventually adding a partner after 1966, her second husband, Dick Pickering. They were known in the 1970s for their annual anniversary celebrations, "offering Cozys, chips and beverages at "yesterday's prices," the store history reveals.

When the Pickerings died in the 1990s the Cozy Inn was bequeathed to St. John's Military School, Kansas Wesleyan University and Salina Regional Health Center. The organizations sold the restaurant

to Max Holthaus, Gregg Boyle and Monte Shadwick in 1996, during its 75th year. A former Salina mayor and Saline County commissioner and commission chairman, Shadwick left the business in 2001 and launched other ventures.

Howard bought The Cozy Inn during April 2007. The Cozy's appeal reaches across oceans and into other continents. Customers have come from most of the United States, including Alaska, and overseas. Love affairs with the little sliders prompt some to order them shipped frozen. One package of frozen Cozy burgers were sent to Colorado March 1. "She should be getting her's about now," Windholz said, as noon approached on March 2.

Windholz paused to answer the phone and quickly corrected a caller. "No, we don't have any cheese here," Windholz said. Those dairy slices are strictly forbidden at the Cozy. "That's a six-letter word we don't use," Howard said.

Jim "Smiley" Meyer, a retired city worker in Salina, plans a trip later this month to visit friends Charlie Tulson, and his wife, Kathy, in Sarasota, Fla. Meyer spent 32 years at the Bicentennial Center, and Charlie is a former Salina Journal pressman.

"Whenever Charlie's in Salina, he goes to the Cozy Inn. He called me up to tell me about the 100th anniversary," Meyer said. While planning a trip to see the Tulsons, he decided to surprise Charlie by shipping him three dozen Cozy Burgers. "They'll ship them the day before I leave, so they'll be there when I get there," Meyer said. "I'll try to have a Cozy experience with a tailgate party."

The winner of a Cozy Inn story contest in 1997, when the restaurant turned 75, was from Jim Baughan, who delivered Bob Kinkel's newspaper, according to the 1999 Journal story. Before school, Baughan peeled and ground onions for the Cozy, and was paid in bubble gum.

Later stationed in Guadalcanal in 1943 during World War II, he received a February Christmas package containing Cozy burgers, and gum. The Cozys were coated in mold. After a week, Baughan's sergeant ordered him and fellow Marines to "give the box a proper burial," according to the Salina Journal story.

The restaurant gave work to possibly thousands



over the years. Howard counted 358 employees since 1996.

Possessing a "soft spot" for baseball, early owners Bob and Kathryn Kinkel were known to hire local players as cooks, among them Bruce and Bob Swift. Included in the stories from the 1999 article were accounts that Bob would return home from playing catcher for the Detroit Tigers, and work at the Cozy Inn.

The restaurant was well known providing employment through the decades to young people. The experiences instilled a sense of loyalty to them,



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KSHSAA KEEPING THINGS CLOSE TO THE MAT IN SALINA

State Wrestling 4-1A

Salina recently hosted two high school state wrestling championships at Tony's Pizza Events Center (TPEC). TPEC, Visit Salina and the entire community welcome the athletes, coaches, administrators, and families to Salina for some exciting action on the mats! **The 4-1A Class Girls' Tournament** was held Wednesday and Thursday, March 23 & twenty-four. The team results were 1st Place: Pratt; 2nd Place Hoisington; and 3rd Place Columbus. These 4-1A boys wrestlers grappled their way to placing 1st Place: Tonganoxie; 2nd Place: Augusta; and 3rd Place Andale. Paid attendance for the event was record setting at 5,528!



More recently TPEC welcomed a team competition of another variety. **The NJCAA Region VI (Jayhawk Region) Women's and Men's Basketball** their tournaments. Semi-finals were March 4 and Finals were March 5.

Men's teams included Dodge City, Colby, Coffeyville, Garden City, Butler, Cowley, Pratt and Hutchinson. Ultimately, Dodge City defeated Hutchinson 98-96 to take the region crown will advance to the 2022 NJCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship, March 14-19 in Hutchinson, KS.



Women's Action!

In women's play, we welcomed Independence, Butler, Cowley, Barton, Seward County, Colby, Dodge City and Hutchinson to the courts. The Hutchinson Blue Dragons women defeated Barton County in the championship game, 82-66, and will move on to play in the NJCAA Women's Division I Basketball Championship March 16-21 in Lubbock, TX.

"It was so fun to bring the NJCAA Region VI Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments back to Salina. The Region VI tournaments have not been played in Salina since 2005, so it was so fun to watch this fast-paced high-caliber type of play at the Tony's Pizza Events Center again." Tiffany Benien, Visit Salina Sports Manager.



Continued from Page 14

also pride.

A bit of lineage was developed for one family in particular, starting with Shorty Kellams, one of the first Cozy Inn fry cooks, pictured among four colleagues in 1940. His daughter, Kay Bishop, reported for duty one day at the Cozy,



“so she could say she worked there,” said Nicole McClintock, of Salina, a granddaughter. Her uncle, Salinan Donnie Bishop II, also worked there a few years, now at Salina Vortex. McClintock landed a job at the Cozy Inn while a student at Salina Central High School.

“I worked there about five years before they offered me a manager position in Manhattan,” said McClintock, referring to the Cozy Inn that opened 2009 in Aggieville near Kansas State University’s main campus. “I was happy to start a new adventure and chapter in Manhattan,” she said. “I had started (college) at K-State. It was kind of a nice fit.” That store closed during the spring of 2021. McClintock finished her bachelor’s degree in tech management from the K-State campus in Salina. She now works as an information technology specialist at Salina Technical College.

McClintock’s younger sister, Ashlee Bishop, of Solomon, also a Salina Central graduate, worked at the original Cozy Inn. Today, she’s an accounting clerk at Salina Scale. “It’s really special,” McClintock said. “We have a lot of fun memories and great stories from all the (Cozy Inn) customers who came in from near and far.”

Service is a big deal to Steve Howard.

“Some people travel hundreds to thousands of miles. They come in excited, and you just want

to feed off their excitement and enthusiasm,” he said. “I had a professor in here and she said ‘I can tell when my students have ‘it’ and you have ‘it.’”

Years earlier, Howard was searching for a better future when he was recruited to be a bartender by Holthaus, who was general manager at the Salina Country Club. Howard’s day job was a building operator at Franklin and Heusner elementary schools for the Salina School District.

Before that, he spent 14 years with McDonald’s, and was taking a management course in Kansas City, all while recovering from a broken neck suffered in a swimming accident in 1985.

“I was lucky,” Howard said. “God had plans for me.”

Holthaus developed a liking for Howard’s work ethic and enthusiasm at the country club. The high praise prompted him to consider pushing Howard to consider the Cozy Inn.

“Steve’s just a great guy,” Holthaus said. “I had been asking him (about the Cozy) for a couple years, and he said he just wasn’t ready.” Then one day, Howard declared interest. He began to work, sort of undercover, at the Cozy Inn during January of 2007, and was a natural.

“Steve got in there and did a great job. He was just perfect for the Cozy,” Holthaus said, “He knew the community and how to talk to customers. He was enthused and wanted it to be successful.” Holthaus and Boyle financed the purchase and Howard paid for the Cozy Inn within 10 years.

The owner has spent the past 15 years coming up with innovative ways to promote the restaurant, among them donating Cozy Burgers to Ell-Saline schools, where they are sold at school events. With a bit of tape to hold wrappings in place, the sliders are tossed into the crowd at Liberty arena football games at the Tony’s Pizza Event Center.

As an employer, Howard aims to help young people, and give a hand up to others who could use a boost. “He’s a pretty flexible boss,” daughter Andrea said. “He’s understanding. He listens and gives people second chances, and helps out at the Ashby House, (family shelter) by giving girls jobs.”

Andrea, 24, who has worked at the Cozy Inn since she was 11, is an important cog in the future of the restaurant. She’s being groomed to take over.

“I’m pretty much my dad,” she said. “I’m the person right under him. I’ve been manning the grill and telling people what to do since I was 13, and I was considered a manager at 16.”

Howard said his daughter could run the restaurant “like a champ” when she was 12. “We had a contest for awhile, offering two free sliders if you could guess her age,” Steve Howard said. “They usually guessed she was older, and only got it right twice.” Her brother Landon, 21,

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works as a welder for Great Plains Manufacturing in Salina, but spent some formative years at The Cozy Inn. Howard’s wife of 30 years, Kris, also helps out occasionally at the restaurant.

Proud to be part of the downtown, Steve Howard is happy where he is with the business and its future, selling an average of 10,000 Cozy Burgers a week. “If you drive the interstate a lot, you’re either gonna pass some people with our burgers in their car, or be passed by one with them,” he said. “I’m in the tourism industry, and like I tell the chamber, I’m putting Salina on the map. We’re Salina’s taste sensation destination, and we ARE a destination.”

FACTOID:

COZY INN RESTAURANT

108 N. Seventh

~ HOURS ~

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday

11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday

Phone: (785) 825-2699