

CHAMBER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

October 2021 Volume 61, Number 6



AT A GLANCE

Business After Hours October 7
Hutton
137 S. Fifth St.
5-7pm

Salina Economic Outlook Conf . . . October 14
Salina Country Club
2101 E. Country Club Rd.
10:30am-2pm

Business After Hours October 28
Salina Country Club
2101 E. Country Club Rd.
5-7pm

Details inside!

Gifted by
Verna Fitzsimmons, Ph.D.
"Weaving engineering through art."
Dedicated June 14, 2018
By Jim Wilson

K-STATE SALINA TO PILOT NOAA PROGRAM

See Page 3



Salina

Area Chamber of Commerce

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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From the CEO



Eric L. Brown

A region's economic prosperity is linked to that region's ability to prevent, withstand, and quickly recover from major disruptions to its economic base. The dragging on of the COVID-19 pandemic has put a focus on this fact as almost all aspects of business operations have been affected a one level or another. The community overall has a soundly diverse economic base that doesn't lean too heavily on any one primary sector, which has helped keep the local economy overall in the black.

The response of the community, region, state, and federal entities has done its job to prevent a cataclysmic bottoming out of the economy, but this pandemic and so many of the other major disruptors can't continue to be solved by printing money. There needs to be a focus on resiliency.

Resiliency comes from many places including strong social services, quality health and wellness opportunities for citizens, positive communication, and collaboration amongst private and public entities, engaging with underrepresented populations in the community, promoting and strengthen social connections across all walks of life, and increasing educational opportunities and attainment - to name a few.

There are many challenges to our resiliency and our future ability to support the ability of our local businesses to grow. Community resiliency is a much larger effort than any single focus area; it is incumbent on the public sector, private sector, nonprofits, and every individual citizen to work towards addressing our issues.

Resilient communities seek to be more competitive by supporting housing opportunities up and down the economic ladder, early childhood availability and access, strong infrastructure, innovative workforce development programs, quality educational opportunities at all levels, and in turn, these will help maintain our high quality of life.

During major disruptions like pandemics, acts of God, and other anomalies, our elected officials at all levels make decisions on a regular basis with the amount of trusted information available that have a direct effect on our daily lives as citizens.

The officials in those decision-making positions are elected by us as citizens and as individuals and as a community we need to make sure we are informed, and vote based on that information. With that in mind, I would encourage you all to read our candidate profile document located on the Chamber's website and watch the recorded session of City of Salina Candidate Forum via Smoky Hills Public Television or Salina Media Connection to help you make an informed decision on November 2, 2021.

Best,

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT OUR CHAMBER STAFF

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NOAA and Kansas State University Salina partner to create NOAA Corps pilot recruiting pipeline



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus have signed an agreement to collaborate on a first-of-its kind program to prepare students to serve as officers and pilots with the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps), one of the nation's eight uniformed services. Signing the agreement were Alysia Starkey, CEO and dean of the Salina Campus and Rear Adm. Nancy Hann, NOAA. Special guest U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas was in Salina to witness the signing ceremony.

"We are excited to partner with K-State Salina on this groundbreaking academic program to prepare students for a successful career in the NOAA Corps," said Rear Adm. Nancy Hann, deputy director of the NOAA Corps and NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO). "We look forward to working with the university to build our capacity to conduct science in the sky in service to the nation."

Under the agreement, NOAA and K-State Salina will develop an undergraduate program to equip students with the science, technology, engineering and math skills required to join the NOAA Corps. The new program, to be piloted exclusively at the K-State Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus, will include dynamic flight training.

NOAA Corps officers pilot NOAA's specialized aircraft and support a variety of missions, including hurricane research, reconnaissance and surveillance, marine mammal and snow surveys, coastal mapping and emergency response.

Currently, most NOAA Corps officers begin their careers serving aboard a NOAA ship with the opportunity to pilot NOAA aircraft following their sea tour if they meet the appropriate requirements. Under this new initiative, students who successfully complete the NOAA-K-State Salina aviation

program and subsequent basic officer training at the NOAA Corps Officer Training Center in New London, Conn, will immediately begin supporting NOAA flight operations.

"We are excited for our students to graduate with the skills necessary for this type of service and transition directly into their NOAA career. This is another way our campus is broadening the talent pipeline to industry as we become a global leader in aerospace," said Alysia Starkey, CEO and dean.

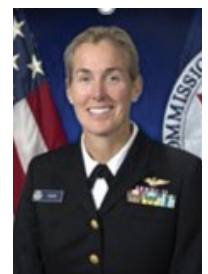
NOAA and K-State Salina will issue a call for applications once the new program is fully developed. Meanwhile, the NOAA Corps continues to accept applications from anyone who meets the service's basic eligibility requirements and is prepared to serve their country in uniform.

NOAA's fleet of aircraft and ships is operated, managed and maintained by OMAO, which is composed of civilians and NOAA Corps officers. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus has a modern fleet of more than 30 aircraft and is located adjacent to a 12,300-foot runway. The wide variation in climate provides students flight experience in diverse weather such as high winds, convective activity, low visibility, heat and cold operations. Our training environment prepares a versatile pilot ready for NOAA service.



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran



Rear Adm. Nancy Hann, Deputy Director of the NOAA Corps and NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)

K-State Salina Experiencing Continued Growth in Enrollment

Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus marks its fourth year of continued enrollment growth in fall 2021. This year the campus has experienced a 14% increase in total enrollment, now 741 students, up from 649 last year. That included increases in Saline County applications, first-generation students, and both in-state and out-of-state applications.

"This has been an exciting year for our campus," said Alysia Starkey, CEO and dean. "The aerospace and technology industries are hiring graduates at record pace and our enrollment management team,

faculty and staff are working hard to keep up with demand. It is a great time to start a career in the industries we serve."

Learn more at: salinaadmissions@k-state.edu

"This is another way our campus is broadening the talent pipeline to industry as we become a global leader in aerospace."

Alysia Starkey, CEO and dean





SAVE THE DATE!

Salina Business Hall of Fame INDUCTION CEREMONY

Date: November 3, 2021

Time: 11:30am – 1:30pm

Location: Salina Country Club

Featured Speaker: Kansas Lt. Governor David Toland

Watch your inbox! Inductees will be announced in an upcoming Chamber Bi-Weekly Report, along with a link to purchase tickets! Stay tuned!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

Building Bridges Partnership with USD 305 To Facilitate CTE Improvements

These have been challenging times for both industry and education. The need for high-quality Career & Technical Education (CTE) is stronger than ever. Together, educators and employers can ensure not just a successful future for high school graduates but a robust local economy and a homegrown workforce that is deeply invested in Salina. The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with USD 305 to help facilitate these connections.

USD 305 is hosting a special event to bring educators and employers together, to celebrate CTE and make our CTE programs even better. We're calling this event Building Bridges. It's free of charge, open to the entire community, and will be held at Salina High School South on **Thursday, November 11, from 5:30 to 7:30pm**. The evening includes:

- A meal prepared by our own culinary students
- Presentations by students and administrators
- Brief tours of the CTE facilities at South
- Small group sessions where we get your input and ideas for improving local CTE

Tucky Allen, Workforce One local area business services director for the One-Stop Committee, said a challenge was how students could be trained for local jobs and then how to get them to stay here. He said another challenge was reaching the unemployed and unskilled and students out of school and helping them find the jobs and training they need.

"Our youth are our future," Allen said. "It's vital to find these people and help them find work locally to keep the area growing". Job shadowing helps students

understand what it takes to do a job and is an effective tool that many businesses have used in Salina. Touring facilities, internships and mock interviews are also effective tools. Businesses in Salina have job opportunities, but many students don't know all the options available to them.

There are essential and technical skills necessary to get jobs and it is necessary that students get training in both areas. USD 305 offers CTE courses and activities, community service projects, internships, job shadowing, real-world experiences at local businesses that can broaden career awareness and develop job skills, guest speakers, field trips, partnerships with post high school institutions, personalized experiences in middle and high school centered around goals and passions, moving from one-size fits all master schedule to provide a wider variety of opportunities and other opportunities.

Everyone agrees it is much better for students to get real-world experience. The district has more flexibility to give credit for class content rather than the title of the class and that helps too. One element that needs to be addressed early before students head into the work force is developing social and emotional skills necessary to be successful.

The need for teachers is an example of what is happening in the job market. We need students to get back into teaching. Education has to get creative with class choices, whether those are in the medical field, an agricultural program, or creatives such as graphic design, and trades such as electrical and construction.



We hope that you, and any work colleagues who are interested, will join us on November 11 to see how students are gaining the career and life skills needed for success in the 21st century.

Please e-mail RSVP if you plan to attend, to Marnie.Mattek@usd305.com and indicate the number of individuals from your business attending so that we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!



CITY COMMISSION CANDIDATES FORUM TO BE VIRTUAL FORMAT



The City Commission Candidates Forum will be held virtually Tuesday, October 5th at 6 pm. The event will be streamed by Smoky Hill Public Television with no audience in attendance. To watch the event live online visit Smoky Hills PBS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SmokyHillsPBS>.

The forum will be moderated by Frank Hampton, Former Chairman of the Board of the Chamber, and Amy Adams of the Salina League of Women

Voters. The format of the forum will consist of one-minute opening remarks by each candidate, questions from a media panel, submitted questions from the general public, and one-minute closing remarks by each candidate. Candidates will have one minute to answer questions.

Candidate Profiles on all the candidates will be available at the Salina County Clerk's office, the Salina Public Library, the Chamber office, 120 W. Ash, and on the Chamber website at www.salinakansas.org.

31ST ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT EXPO TO BE HELD AT VFW

The 31st Annual Employment Expo is TODAY, from 11am to 2pm at The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of Salina, 1108 W. Crawford Street. This event will be FREE and limited to the first 50 employers this year!



The event will feature regional employers looking to hire employees to fill their open positions. Area employers have the opportunity to set up a booth to talk about hiring needs both now and in the future for their business. Attendees are encouraged to bring applications and conduct on-site interviews. Job applicants are expected to come from all over the area. 99KG will have a live remote on site.

Prospective employees are encouraged to attend to learn more about the hiring needs of business, brush up on their job search skills, and network with others. KansasWorks will also have their mobile unit available that day.

The event is jointly sponsored through a partnership between The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Mall, Eagle Communications, Salina Human Resource Management Association (SHRMA), Salina Regional Health Foundation, KansasWorks, and Workforce Solutions of OCCK, Inc.



LEADERSHIP SALINA

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to introduce the Leadership Salina Class of 2021!

- Francheska Bailey • First Bank Kansas
- Leslie Bishop • Salina Downtown Inc.
- Jennifer Bretton • Salina Regional Health Center
- Micah Bunce • Coronado Area Council of Boy Scouts
- Matt Dill • EdwardJones
- Spencer Dixon • Great Plains Manufacturing, Inc.
- Josh Doak • Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus
- Renee Duxler • Salina Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cara Emig • First Bank Kansas
- Cynthia Garcia • The Bennington State Bank
- Ian Groopman • Tony's Pizza Events Center
- Genell Heimer • Salina Family Health Center
- Aaron Howard • Woods & Durham Chtd
- Jennifer Kaufman • Central Kansas Mental Health Center
- Angela Kerner • Greater Salina Community Foundation
- Saskia Lehnert • Great Plains Manufacturing, Inc.
- Chloe Matthews • The Bennington State Bank
- Rafael Mendez • Blue Beacon International, Inc.
- Brenda Meyer • Bethany College
- Laurel Michel Driskell • Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich & Williamson, Chtd
- Amanda Otto • Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Becky Rathbun • The Bank of Tescott
- April Rickman • Independent Connection Inc.
- Yesica Swenson • OCCK
- Kara Titus • Kansas Gas Service
- Hannah Weishaar • First Bank Kansas



OCCK Transportation will be providing free rides on both CityGo and Paratransit services to job seekers attending the 31st Annual Employment Expo hosted by OCCK, Inc. TODAY, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Salina VFW, 1108 W. Crawford. The Salina VFW is served by both the PURPLE and GREEN routes on CityGo. Passengers will just need to tell the driver that they are going to the Job Fair. Paratransit passengers just need to schedule their ride with the OCCK Dispatch team.



Conference to present Outlook on the Economy

The Salina Economic Outlook Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 14 from 10:30am to 2pm. The event will be held at Salina Country Club, 2101 E. Country Club Rd, and will include lunch.

The conference will provide insight into current local and national economies, addressing topics of interest to the community, region and state. A combination of nationally known speakers and local experts will be on hand to provide perspectives on issues affecting business, industry, education and government.

Host at the Salina event is Michelle Case, Asst Prof of Business and Accounting, Kansas Wesleyan University. The State Outlook will be presented by Jeremy Hill, CEDBR Director, Wichita State University. The Real Estate Outlook will be given by Stan Longhofer, Wichita State University Center for Real Estate, Director. Real Estate Panelists include: Chris Rost, President

of Great Plains Assoc of Realtors, Mike Hoppock, Owner of Land Title Services, and Gabe Grant, Realtor at Heritage Real Estate Advisors. Edward Cross, President of KS Independent Oil and Gas Producers will provide an Oil Update. Paul Hedlund, Assoc Prof at Kansas Wesleyan University will provide a Local Update and serves as Business Panelist, along with D. Mitch Robinson, Exec Director of Salina Community Economic Development Organization.

Included in the price of the conference is a subscription to the CEDBR forecast booklets (\$100 value), which are in-depth publications and reference guides on regional and state-wide economic conditions in Kansas: Kansas Economic Trends (available at event) and Kansas Economic Update (mailed in February). The cost for the conference is \$25 for students, and \$95 for all other attendees. Registration, and more details, can be accessed [here](#).



Project OPEN Spurs Entrepreneurial Activity and Growth

COVID-19 put a definite halt on a lot of entrepreneurial and start-up activity in Saline County. As we continue to recover, we're definitely seeing a renewed desire for creating businesses.

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce and our economic development arm oversees the Network Kansas e-community for Saline County. Specifically, this initiative is known as Project OPEN, and provides a number of support and

resources to budding start-ups and aspiring entrepreneurs. On top of providing referrals to local resources and information, we also provide gap-funding up to \$45k in matching loan funds for start-ups and business expansions. Project OPEN also has a partnership with K-State Salina to provide business training classes that cover financial and marketing basics for business owners.

More information about Project OPEN can be

found at www.projectopensalina.com. The next round of business courses are coming up this month, and scheduled for **Oct. 19 and 21, both from 5:30-8:30pm** at the K-State Salina campus. These courses are intended to be taken in tandem, as they walk attendees through the creation of a business plan. To register for these courses, contact Renee Duxler at rduxler@salina.org, or visit www.projectopensalina.com/training.



THANK YOU

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

- ▶ 1st Choice Security
- ▶ All In Screenprint
- ▶ Alzheimer's Association
- ▶ Arbor Court Retirement Community
- ▶ AT&T Kansas
- ▶ BE Wealth - LPL Financial
- ▶ BT Salina Wholesale Liquor
- ▶ Caregivers Home Health
- ▶ Central Plains Diesel & Repair
- ▶ Choices Network, Inc.
- ▶ Coldwell Banker Antrim-Piper, Wenger Realtors - Amber Renfro
- ▶ Comfort Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC
- ▶ Cornerstone Classical School
- ▶ Dagney's Ice Cream, LLC
- ▶ Doug's Heating & Air Inc
- ▶ EatStreet
- ▶ Elmore Plaza, Inc.
- ▶ First Tee - Salina
- ▶ Hampton Financial, LLC
- ▶ Wink Hartman
- ▶ HDR Engineering, Inc.
- ▶ Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center
- ▶ Hog Wild Pit Bar-BQ
- ▶ Holland Paving, Inc.
- ▶ Janzen Marketing LLC
- ▶ KARA - Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
- ▶ KOA of Salina
- ▶ Landscape Consultants, LLC
- ▶ LTC John D. Riddell VFW Post 1432
- ▶ Messenger Total Promotions
- ▶ Millwood Realty - Gary Norris
- ▶ Mr. Freeland Design
- ▶ NC-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging
- ▶ Nex-Tech Wireless, LLC
- ▶ One Office Solution
- ▶ Pancho's
- ▶ Reece Construction
- ▶ Roberts Hutch-Line, Inc.
- ▶ Salina Appliance & Decor
- ▶ Schwab Eaton
- ▶ ServiceMaster of Salina
- ▶ Tumbleweed LLC
- ▶ YaYa's Euro Bistro

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737 N. Santa Fe Avenue
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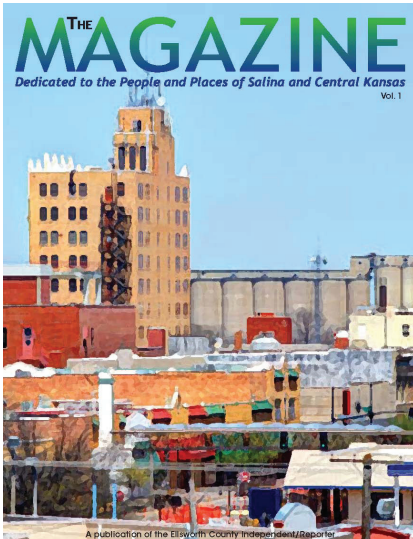


take to meet

THE MAGAZINE

Dedicated to the People and Places of Central Kansas

Owner(s): Linda Mowery-Denning and Morris Multimedia
Email: themagazine@indyrepnews.com



What service/product do you provide?

After almost 27 years at the Salina Journal and 20 years as publisher of the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter, I've often been struck by the strong bond between Salina and the region. Salina, in particular, would not be the progressive, vital community it is without the support of residents from Ellsworth, Abilene, Lindsborg and other nearby towns.

The Magazine will contain mostly local features with emphasis on the connection between Salina and its neighbors.

When did you start your business and why?

The Magazine goes live in November; however, it is a publication of the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter. Former Salina resident Sharon Montague and I started the Indy in 1999 and merged in 2001 with the Ellsworth Reporter, which was owned by Morris Multimedia of Savannah, GA.

Anything else you would like the community to know?

We are so excited about The Magazine's potential to reflect the character of Salina and its residents. There is so much we want to do; so much we want to share with our readers. Our first issue will feature a story by Tim Unruh on the Vanier family. Gary Demuth, former entertainment editor of the Salina Journal, is a contributor; along with Gordon Fiedler and Josh Svaty, former state representative and Kansas secretary of agriculture.

What is something that no one knows about you?

I can't spell. Well, actually anyone who has ever edited my writing knows that about me, but fortunately they can spell so readers don't have a clue.

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

take to meet

NEXTLINK INTERNET

Owner(s): Bill Baker
Email: lpope@team.nxlink.com



What service/product do you provide?

Nextlink Internet provides high speed hybrid Internet and phone services to rural residential, business, K-12, healthcare and public sector markets in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa & Illinois.

When did you start your business and why?

Nextlink initiated its operations in 2012 in Weatherford, TX. Our owners saw a gap in high speed internet options in rural areas and sought to bring a solution that would enable residents to have connectivity for a reasonable price.

Anything else you would like the community to know?

Our founders believed in community involvement! Nextlink routinely conducts Giving Back campaigns within the communities we serve. We are hiring locally and currently have many opportunities available!

What is something that no one knows about you?

We started out doing business in a shopping center ten years ago, we were working off of fold out tables.

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

We have had the opportunity to expand our network into six states to connect rural America.

Why is being a Salina Area Chamber of Commerce member important?

Our local office and employees trust the Salina Chamber to keep us plugged into the community. We are looking forward to building strong relationships in the communities where we Live, Work and Play!

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



In The News



Pretzels, Beer & BBQ... Yes, it is almost time for the **SALINA AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK's** 2nd annual STOCKTOBERFEST at BEL Tree Farm! Join us Thursday,

Oct. 14th from 5:30-7:30pm for an evening of food and fun. Tickets are available now so call the Food Bank at (785) 827-7111 to reserve your spot!

The PRESBYTERIAN MANOR

Soup Supper is back with a twist this year! Participate in a local tradition that gives back to seniors in need. To take every safety precaution for residents and staff, you are invited to dine with one or both of their amazing sponsors – YaYa's Euro Bistro on October 26 & Panera on October 28. Proceeds (15% and 20% respectively) benefit the good Samaritan Program. Don't miss the online auction October 22-29! Learn more at Facebook/SalinaPresbyterianManor.



Congratulations to the **COZY INN**, 108 N. Seventh, on their latest award. They were named by Google as a "2021 Top Rated Burger". Stop by and grab a bag with your favorite chips and soda to see for yourself!

GOT NEWS?

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

Clinton Strong is the new aviation department head on the **KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SALINA AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS**. Strong is responsible for all aspects of the aviation department, including faculty, support staff, flight, budget and academics. His main focus areas are ensuring an outstanding student environment and positioning the program for continued success.



SALINA DENTAL ARTS, 1829 S. Ohio, will have a "Candy Buy Back" on November 6th from 10:30am-12:30pm. Kids can turn Halloween candy into cash and enjoy crafts, games, a bounce house, prizes and more!

RIBBON CUTTING



Nextlink Internet celebrated expanding to Salina with an official Ribbon Cutting. Nextlink is an internet service provider delivering high-speed internet and voice services throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa & Illinois to residential, business, K-12, libraries, rural Healthcare, higher learning, & governmental agencies. Nextlink Internet is dedicated to providing the best service in the communities we live, work and play. They are looking forward to being a "local" here in the greater Salina, Kansas community.



Rent One, 1123 W. Crawford, celebrated joining the Chamber with an official Ribbon Cutting. Rent One is proud to be part of the Salina community since February of 2018. They are a lease to own company that serves a wide variety of items from appliances to furnishings, as well as Electronics.



Rind & Grind, 617 E. Crawford, celebrated their grand opening with an official Ribbon Cutting. Rind and Grind is Salina's Premier Health based Smoothie Bar using whole fruits. They feature Fresh Squeeze & Fair Trade espresso as well!



GOOD SPORTS!

KSHSAA 5A/6A STATE VOLLEYBALL **BACK ON THE COURT**

The KSHSAA Class 5A & 6A State Volleyball Tournaments will be held at Tony's Pizza Events Center, October 29-30, 2021. Salina has hosted State Volleyball Tournaments each fall for decades dating back to 1978. While the tournament was modified in 2020, this year the tradition continues and is planned for the normal format. A total of 16 teams, plus officials, fans and spectators will come to Salina and compete. The tournaments are estimated to provide Salina more than \$490,000 in estimated economic impact.

On Friday morning, 8 teams in the 5A class will begin with opening ceremonies followed by pool play. Game times are scheduled for 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30am, 12:30 and 1:30pm. Friday afternoon, 8 teams in the 6A class will begin with opening ceremonies followed by pool play. Game times are scheduled for 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30pm. Semifinal, Consolation and Championship games will be played on Saturday in both divisions with 5A game times scheduled at 10am and 11:30am, and 6A games times set for 2pm and 3:30pm.

Interested in volunteering at the event? Visit Salina is currently recruiting community volunteers that would be willing to assist as team hosts and announcers. Specifically help is needed during opening ceremonies and award presentations. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tiffany via e-mail tbenien@salinakansas.org Or Call: (785) 827-9301 x130.

Once teams qualify, brackets will be posted at www.KSHSAA.org



NJCAA REGION VI/KJCCC BASKETBALL **COMES TO SALINA!**

Visit Salina is pleased to announce that Salina will host the final rounds of the 2022 NJCAA Region VI / Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) DI & DII Men's & Women's Basketball Championship Tournaments. Games will be played at the Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina, Kansas, March 4-5, 2022.

Mike Saddler, NJCAA Region VI Director cited the following reasons as to why Salina was selected. "Salina's central location makes a great place for the Region VI Finals. Tony's Pizza Events Center is an outstanding venue for our teams to play in and it will provide an excellent atmosphere for our fans as well. With lots of hotels and restaurants, Salina will be a great fit. We are looking forward to working together with Visit Salina and the Tony's Pizza Events Center to put on a great two-days of competitive basketball. The student athletes and the fans, as well as the Salina community, will get to enjoy a great experience."

NJCAA Region VI is made up of the Division I and Division II teams from the KJCCC. Friday will feature the Division I men's and women's semifinals with games scheduled for 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, and 7:00pm. Saturday will mark the championships for both divisions with the Division II women's championship tipping off at 1:00pm followed by the men's championships. It will be the Division I teams that take the court Saturday with the Division I women's championship at 5PM followed by the men at 7PM.

According to Tiffany Benien, Visit Salina, "This is going to be an extremely exciting two days of basketball for Salina. This will be the first time in over a decade that the Region VI basketball finals will be held in Salina. Tony's Pizza Events Center arena has never looked better, with a new floor, which should very nicely accommodate this high level of collegiate competition. We're looking forward to sharing the Salina experience with the student athletes, coaches, administration, families, officials, media and fans of Region VI! I believe Salina will embrace and enjoy this event. As we look ahead, it would be ideal for Region VI/KJCCC to consider Salina a home for this championship in the future."

Ticket information will be released closer to the event date and will be found at www.tonypizzaeventscenter.com.





Blogger Provides Glimpse of Salina

This summer and fall, Visit Salina partnered with our Kansas I-70 Association member communities and the Kansas Tourism office to host a regional lifestyle blogger in all of our communities. Wichitan Vanessa Whiteside spent time in Salina in early September checking out what we have to offer people choosing to visit Salina – the 67401! Vanessa's time here coincided with the Smoky Hill River Festival, which was really great timing for Salina. We wanted to give you a taste of the social media exposure that Vanessa's posts provided for Salina, from accommodations to attractions, dining and more. HUGE THANKS to our local partners who provided admissions, meals, and a little Salina swag to create a warm welcome for Vanessa, and make this project possible. Best of all, Visit Salina is partnering with Salina Arts & Humanities and more Salina tourism partners to bring Vanessa back to experience, and share, even more of Salina.

You can follow Vanessa at <https://onedelightfullife.com/>, but here is a few short excerpts of what she shared of her [Salina experience](#).

Plan the Ultimate Overnight Stay in Salina, Kansas

September 15, 2021 • By [Vanessa Whiteside](#)

(Disclosure: [Kansas I-70 Association](#) sponsored this post. However, all opinions and photographs are my own.)

What's not to love about Salina, Kansas? The downtown district is renewed, the arts scene is vibrant, and the entertainment and dining options abound! The community has everything you're looking for and more in a Midwest town. I suggest you plan an overnight stay to see many of Salina's best attractions.



MURAL AT THE MILL

If the goal of the [Salina Canvas Project](#) is to attract onlookers and spark conversations about art, their latest project is a success. The Mural at the Mill large-scale mural (343 N. Santa Fe) is phenomenal. Australian artist Guido Van Helten was commissioned to paint the HD Lee Flour Mill to represent the spirit of Salina. His depiction of children at play holding hands around another child communicates a sense of happiness and belonging. Although the mural was still in progress during our visit, it was nearly complete. I recommend driving to the edge of the downtown area to view it. Word has it that there is more to come from other internationally known artists, so stay tuned [here](#) for details.



SMOKY HILL RIVER FESTIVAL

For over four decades, the town has hosted the [Smoky Hill River Festival](#) at Oakdale Park that attracts fun-seekers from all over Kansas. The weekend festival focuses on celebrating the arts. Four stages play top-name regional bands. Over 150 artists contribute their work, many of which are on-site to sell it. Over 30 food vendors serve everything from full meals to concessions favorites on a stick. The festival is a lively celebration that shouldn't be missed.



Dollars & Sense

12U Fastpitch at South High

\$18,400

NCS/USA Softball Girls Fastpitch at Bill Burke

\$93,680

Marquee Welcomes

August

3	14U Fastpitch at South High
3	NCS/USA Softball Girls Fastpitch at Bill Burke
8-9	Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association (KWCA) Conference & Family Weekend
11	KSHSAA Girls 4A State Golf
23	XWE Pro Wrestling Event
29-30	KSHSAA 5A/6A State Volleyball



PUMPKIN PaZOOla!

Autumn is coming, and that means it's time for Pumpkin PaZOOla at [Rolling Hills Zoo](#), 625 N. Hedville Road! This fun, family-friendly event will be Saturday, October 9, and they have lots in store as always! The zoo will provide half-price admission for kids 12 years of age and younger, with a paid adult admission. Kids will also receive a FREE pumpkin*, and the first 300 kids wearing a Halloween costume will receive a FREE gift*. Of course all of your favorite zoo residents will be there to greet you too. So, put on those costumes, head to the zoo and have a great time!

*while supplies last



BUSINESS HOURS *after* HOURS

Thursday • October 7



HUTTON
137 S. Fifth St.

Hutton recently opened their new office in downtown Salina, which they designed and built, and they're excited to welcome Chamber members to check it out. Join them and meet the architects, builders and facility services team who are proud to call Salina home.

Thursday • October 28



SALINA COUNTRY CLUB
2101 E. Country Club Rd.

The Salina Country Club, under new ownership of JRI Hospitality Management, invites you to enjoy live music, hors d'oeuvres and beverages from their culinary and beverage talents, take tours of the club and register for SCC raffle items. JRI is working to integrate new experiences, technologies, and infrastructure to boost SCC member's enjoyment and attract new prospective members. So come on out and hear all about the exciting things on the horizon for Salina Country Club.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Our October hosts, Hutton and Salina Country Club, are generously covering the admission fees to these two BAH events! Therefore, there is no charge to attending members! Please RSVP in order that they may plan accordingly.

**COME OUT AND SEE WHAT
Hutton and Salina Country Club
have to offer!**

REFRESHMENTS – TOURS – DOOR PRIZES

\$ It Pays to Attend \$

**DOOR PRIZES (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)
\$250 CASH ATTENDANCE DRAWING**

For reservations call (785) 827-9301 or email dsmith@salinakansas.org

Download the

SALINA 67401

App!



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



**Salina Chamber
of Commerce**



Visit Salina



Imagine Salina

