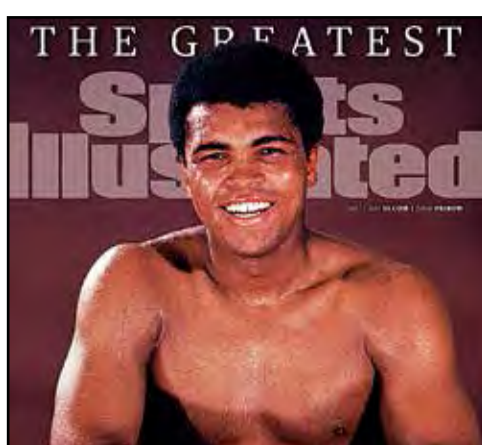


**ALI'S DEATH**  
 TRIBUTES POUR  
 IN FROM AROUND  
 THE WORLD FOR  
 BOXING LEGEND  
 MUHAMMAD ALI.

SEE PAGES A3, C1, C4, C5



**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
 Annual event raises money  
 to fight cancer, celebrates  
 survivors.

SEE PAGE A5



**TODAY**  
 High: 85 Low: 54  
 Beautiful day in Salina.  
**SEE PAGE D3**

Special thanks to **MARIE GOMEL**, of Beverly, for being a longtime Salina Journal subscriber.

**COME ONE, COME ALL**

*"A lot of people go see the entertainment and don't make it back to the art, so we're trying to bring the art forward, to the people. We're interested in helping people buy affordable art and to make it more accessible."*

• **GRACE PETERSON**, Smoky Hill River Festival visual arts coordinator



By **GARY DEMUTH**  
*Salina Journal*

The Smoky Hill River Festival is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, but a decision was made by the staff of Salina Arts and Humanities, coordinators of the annual festival, not to dwell in the past but to focus on the future.

"There's a perception by the public that the festival is the same each year, and I think every year is different," said Brad Anderson, executive director of Salina Arts and Humanities, 211 W. Iron. "Yes, you have music, food and art, but all of the details are new each year."

For example, for 37 of the festival's 40 years, there wasn't a committee formed to select entertainment, Anderson said. This year's entertainment selection committee, he said, is a young, positive, energetic group who strived to pick "all new music, and in some cases with a lot younger sound, too."

"About 90 members of the community serve as active committee members, and they can take credit for shaping the festival," Anderson said. "There are more than 2,000 volunteers, and they all contribute to the whole festival experience. We're also looking for a higher level of audience engagement for this year and years to come."

Since the Smoky Hill River Festival also is intended to showcase art as much as food and entertainment, there will be a concentrated effort to make festival art more accessible to those attending.

"There's going to be a lot more opportunity for the community to be part of the art-making process," said Grace Peterson,

**see!**  
**18**  
 new exhibitors  
 in the art and  
 craft areas

festival visual arts coordinator. "A lot of people go see the entertainment and don't make it back to the art, so we're trying to bring the art forward, to the people. We're interested in helping people buy affordable art and to make it more accessible."

The Smoky Hill River Festival will begin Thursday with Festival Jam, during which 16 local and area bands perform every 15 minutes on the Eric Stein Stage at Oakdale Park.

It will continue through 5 p.m. Sunday at Oakdale Park.

**MORE THINGS TO KNOW**

• **\$1,500 IN ORIGINAL ART IS PURCHASED** from exhibitors to be given to one local organization to add to a community art collection at a local school, college, city building and other location. This year's selected organization is the Salina Adult Education Center, 2620 Centennial.

• **THE KID-FRIENDLY ARTY'S STAGE:** It will feature Richard Renner's crazy Recycle Cycle, 14-year-

old vocal sensation Ciera Mackenzie and the return of Drum Safari, Up Up & Away Balloon Entertainment and Big Bang Boom.

The Bravo Salina! Stage will feature a hip-hop show, ONE MIC poetry slam, author readings and local dancers and musicians.

• **ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT:** This year's 40th anniversary festival T-shirt and tank top depicts the Dixieland Jazz band in a vintage fire truck. For years, the band performed up and down Food Row and across Oakdale Park. A River Festival Print, designed by Lawrence artist Michael Kreuger, depicts both actual and imagined festival icons throughout the years, including a fiddler, colonial drummers and an organ grinder's monkey. A signed, original print is available to anyone who donates \$100 or more to support the festival.

See **FUN!**, Page A6

June 9, 10, 11 & 12

**40 YEARS**  
**SMOKY HILL RIVER FESTIVAL 2016**

of **fun!**

**browse!**  
**135**  
 exhibiting artists  
 at Fine Art Show, Four Rivers Craft Show and Craft Demonstration

"Reach for the Stars" surprise visual project to celebrate the festival's 40th anniversary

**yum!**  
**GO HUNGRY!**  
**33** food vendors

**MUSIC HEADLINERS**

ERIC STEIN STAGE

**8:30 p.m. Friday**

**RECKLESS KELLY**, an alternative country-rock band from Austin

**8:30 p.m. Saturday**

**THE ROCKETBOYS**, an alternative rock group from Austin that has been compared to Death Cab for Cutie and Band of Horses

**3 p.m. Sunday**

**SUNU**, Kansas City and Lawrence-based band described as a "wall of drums, horns and funk."

In-kind contributions of **\$150,000** for Smoky Hill River Festival budget

Total projected festival budget: **\$508,100** in private and public funding



**ADMISSION TO THE SMOKY HILL RIVER FESTIVAL**

■ By festival button, costs \$10 in advance, \$15 at gate. Children ages 11 and younger admitted free.

■ Buttons available at Salina Arts and Humanities, 211 W. Iron; all Dillons stores, and other locations with "Festival Button on Sale" sign. Advance button sales end at midnight Monday. For more information: [riverfestival.com](http://riverfestival.com).

■ Gates open at 4 p.m. Thursday, Festival Jam from 6 to 10 p.m. ■ 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**enjoy!**

**FESTIVAL DO'S & DON'TS**

■ DO bring coolers with snacks and beverages. DON'T bring glass containers of any kind.

■ DO bring shade umbrellas, but only if you plan to sit behind designated and marked sight lines.

■ DON'T bring canopy tents not authorized by festival staff or any plastic tarps.

■ DO place trash and recycling material in proper receptacles.

■ DON'T bring animals unless they're authorized service animals.

■ DO smoke only in designated areas.

■ DON'T leave blankets and chairs in the park.



**FESTIVAL JAM 2016 LINEUP**

- 6:00 p.m. **Room 347, alternative rock**
- 6:15 **A.M.**, rhythm and blues, jazz and hip-hop
- 6:30 **Pandora Roxx**, hard rock
- 6:45 **Backseat Drivers**, rock
- 7:00 **Everyday Lights**, folk-rock and Americana
- 7:15 **Bootleg Mercy**, rock
- 7:30 **Cheryl Rutz & The Lewis Street Soul**, blues rock
- 7:45 **The Banned**, rock
- 8:00 **Split Decision**, country-rock
- 8:15 **Dunebuggy**, pop rock
- 8:30 **Paramount**, '80s rock
- 8:45 **The Rob Northcutt Band**, country
- 9:00 **The Soul Preachers**, classic rock
- 9:15 **The Last National Band**, old-time rock 'n' roll
- 9:30 **Steve Hanson & Co.**, classic rock
- 9:45 **The Blades**, rockin' horns

**dance!**

**ART INSTALLATIONS IN THE PARK**  
**21 COLORFUL "SET IN NATURE"** art installations to engage festivalgoers

**experience it all!**

**INSIDE**

- OPINION **A7**
- LIFE **B1**
- SPORTS **C1**
- MONEY **D1**
- ALMANAC **D3**
- CLASSIFIED **F1**

**just sayin'**

**Oust the legislators**

State Rep. Ray Merrick has suggested that voters should oust the Supreme Court justices this fall. I would far prefer to oust Rep. Merrick, Sen. Susan Wagle and any legislators who support the adolescent defiance we are seeing demonstrated in Topeka. They all should step down from office immediately.

— **KATHRYN MOORE**, Manhattan

• **"JUST SAYIN' "** Comments must be fewer than 100 words and include your name and phone number. Email to [letters@salina.com](mailto:letters@salina.com) or mail to Salina Journal letters, P.O. Box 740, Salina, KS 67402-0740.

**DON'T MISS IT:** Fishing and fun at Lakewood Park. — **MONDAY FOCUS**

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