

## Briefly

### LongHorn set to build next month

A national company with a restaurant already in Salina will begin construction on another restaurant in Salina in October.

Darden Restaurants, parent company of Red Lobster, 2925 S. Ninth, filed plans with the city to build a LongHorn Steakhouse in front of Kohl's, 2580 S. Ninth.

Salina planning commissioners Tuesday will review a final development plan for the 242-seat steakhouse. Construction is expected to take 18 weeks.

Dennis Lauver, president and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, said he is excited for LongHorn to come to town.

"This has been in the pipeline for quite a while," Lauver said.

A representative from LongHorn could not be reached Friday night. Last month, a representative denied the company was planning to build in Salina.

The building was designed by Dallas-based Gerdes Henrichson Architecture and Development. Darden also is the parent company of Olive Garden.

The restaurant will be the first business to locate in the Kohl's tax-increment financing district and will help pay off the TIF bonds faster.

Lauver said the other regional and national retailers and restaurants are looking to move into Salina.

### Salinan accused of beating man with log

GYPSUM — A Salina man suspected of beating another man with a log in Gypsum earlier this week was arrested Thursday afternoon.

Steven Smith, 42, 604 E. Iron, was booked into the Saline County Jail on a charge of aggravated battery.

Sheriff Glen Kochanowski said deputies were called Tuesday night to a reported fight at a home in Gypsum.

When they arrived, they found Charlie Green, 42, in the garage with a gash on his head; Green also had several outstanding warrants locally and in Wichita, and was arrested.

Kochanowski said several other people in the house said Smith had barged into the home in Gypsum, threatening to kill Green.

### North Fifth asphalt to be replaced

Crews with Salina's public works department will begin replacing asphalt pavement Monday north of the intersection of North Fifth Street and Euclid Avenue.

North Fifth Street will be closed to through traffic from Euclid Avenue to Stimmel Road during construction. Repairs are expected to take four weeks.

From Staff Reports

## Corrections

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The Journal wants to set the record straight. Advise us of errors by calling the Journal at (785) 823-6363, or toll free at 1-800-827-6363. Corrections will run in this space as soon as possible.

# Second Steel Day stronger than first

## Festival expands to three days, includes 80th birthday party

By **CHRIS HUNTER**  
Salina Journal

Its first attempt was the largest Steel Day celebration in the world, with more than 1,200 people in attendance.

And this year, Salina's PKM Steel hopes to make the event bigger and better.

A three-day celebration is planned — Friday-Sept. 25 — with the majority of events taking place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

"Steel Day this year is shaping up to be an event never seen at a company like this," said Mark Hamade, chief human relations officer for PKM. "We want it to be spectacular, big and recognize our customers, the (steel) industry, our employees and the city

### Days of Steel

To register for Steel Day, go online to [pkmsteel.com](http://pkmsteel.com) or call Mark Hamade, (602) 384-1946.

- Friday**
- 8 a.m. Parking and registration, M.J. Kennedy Air Terminal, 3237 Arnold
  - 10 a.m. AISC Class, Salina Municipal Airport
  - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch of cheeseburgers, brats and apple pie
  - 1-5 p.m. Expo and tours, PKM Steel, Valmont Galvanizing, Maico Industries north of

Ellsworth and Salina Steel Supply.

- 6 p.m. Paul Mai's 80th birthday party, Speakeasy. **Sept. 24**

- Golf tournament, 7:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. tee time, Great Life Golf and Fitness, 1800 S. Marymount; \$30 entry.
- Santa Fe Day, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Downtown Salina. **Sept. 25**

- Bob Ardrey Marathon, ½ Marathon, 5K, benefit for Salina Charities League, 7 a.m., Kenwood Park.

of Salina."

PKM's 2011 Steel Day will feature 63 booths from the area, food and music. Last year, there were 18 vendors.

Hamade said there will be booths for every member of the family. He said the company is preparing "goodie

bags" for 2,000 people.

"I don't think any company has put up an event with as many booths as this, other than an expo," Hamade said. "We are pretty pumped about it."

Hamade said the three-day celebration will include

opportunities for people to meet PKM Steel founder Paul Mai and leaders in the steel industry, tour four steel companies in Salina and attend an 80th birthday party for Mai on Friday.

Mai usually visits relatives in his native Germany for his birthday each year.

"This is the first time he is staying here for his birthday in ages," Hamade said. "We don't want someone to miss their 80th birthday, so we wanted to make something special for him."

Mai's birthday will be celebrated at Speakeasy.

Hamade said PKM also will shuttle people to Santa Fe Day in downtown Salina from area hotels on Sept. 24, as well as conduct a golf tournament.

PKM also is a sponsor of the Bob Ardrey Marathon the morning of Sept. 25.

### Parking at airport

With the large attendance

last year, Hamade said PKM had to find an off-site location for parking.

Parking for the event will be at the Salina Municipal Airport's M.J. Kennedy Air Terminal, 3237 Arnold. Buses will shuttle people to PKM.

Hamade said he is excited about the event and hopes people are looking forward to coming. He said PKM wants to show how proud it is to be located in Salina.

"This is about taking pride in everything you do," Hamade said. "What really touched me was that retired people have been calling us and telling us they have been putting this event on the calendar. It makes you want to do this bigger, better and different the next year."

— Reporter Chris Hunter can be reached at 822-1422 or by email at [chunter@salina.com](mailto:chunter@salina.com).



**Shaelly Cole (left), 13, and Brianna Grandy, 13, plant squaw weed Friday afternoon at Sterling House. Squaw weed is a flowering plant native to Kansas.**

TOM DORSEY / Salina Journal

# 'Pocket' change

## Lakewood students help plant a little bit of prairie in Salina

By **MICHAEL STRAND**  
Salina Journal

Earlier this year, Lakewood Middle School science teacher Susan Coykendall was teaching about Kansas' native prairie and its immense diversity compared with a modern lawn.

Friday — a day students weren't in school — she and several students went to Sterling House retirement home, 1200 E. Kirwin, to plant a few dozen perennials in the flower beds in the central

courtyard.

It wasn't an assignment. "I offered the opportunity, and these are the ones who signed up," Coykendall said.

Doug Rudick, with the Smoky Hills Audubon Society — and a paraprofessional at Lakewood — said such "pocket gardens" of native prairie plants are important habitat for native birds and insects, such as butterflies.

"I'm hoping we can get lots of these established around town — at schools, nursing homes and other places," he said. "I've done something like this in my own yard — I did it to attract birds — and I've been amazed at the variety of invertebrates I'm see-

ing now."

The perennials, among them coneflowers, squaw weed and columbine, will come up year after year. Coykendall said. She said that because they're native to this region, they don't require much water to thrive.

Students said planting the flowers was fun — and something to do.

"I volunteered to do this at the Sterling House on Fairdale, too, and it was fun," eighth-grader Shaelly Cole said. "I wasn't doing anything today."

— Reporter Mike Strand can be reached at 822-1418 or by email at [mstrand@salina.com](mailto:mstrand@salina.com).

# Man on probation after shooting computer

By **ERIN MATHEWS**  
Salina Journal

A Salina man was placed on probation for 18 months after being convicted Thursday of a felony count of criminal possession of a firearm and a misdemeanor count of attempted possession of marijuana.

A 10-month prison sentence for the firearms charge and a six-month sentence for the marijuana charge were suspended as long as Michael N. Rodenbeek, 48, fulfills the requirements of his probation, including obtaining an anger assessment.

Rodenbeek was ordered to pay \$800 in Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab fees and other court costs.

According to an affidavit filed by law enforcement at the time of his arrest, the charges resulted from an April 27, 2010, incident.

According to the affidavit, Rodenbeek had been told by acquaintances that a man who had worked on his computer previously had shown them photos of Rodenbeek's girlfriend and other personal information downloaded from Rodenbeek's computer.

The affidavit said Rodenbeek told police he and his girlfriend had argued earlier in the day because she was upset and felt he hadn't taken the issue seriously.

Rodenbeek contacted Michael J. Weber that night via Facebook and asked him to come to his home to work on his computer again. He told police it had been his intent to take or destroy Weber's laptop.

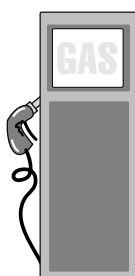
When Weber got set up to run diagnostics on Rodenbeek's computer, Rodenbeek grabbed a 20-gauge shotgun that was nearby and shot the bag containing Weber's laptop, the affidavit said. Rodenbeek never pointed the gun at Weber; he told Weber to leave, and Weber left and called police, according to the affidavit.

While officers were at Rodenbeek's house investigating the incident, evidence of illegal drug use was found, according to the affidavit.

In September 2010, Weber, who initially reported that his personal laptop computer had been shot, told police he had forgotten that he had given the laptop to Rodenbeek. Weber was arrested for filing a false report, and he pleaded no contest to the charge in Salina Municipal Court.

On Sept. 29, Weber was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$70 in court costs. Since that time, he has been assessed \$50 each of the four times he has been picked up on bench warrants for failing to pay. Court records show he owes \$615.

## fuel finder



A sampling of unleaded gas prices in the region.

To view the 10 lowest area gas prices, go to [salina.com/news](http://salina.com/news).

- **Salina, \$3.45<sup>9</sup>**  
Conoco, 2250 N. Ohio
- **Salina, \$3.50<sup>9</sup>**  
Sinclair, 1118 N. Ninth
- **Abilene, \$3.41<sup>9</sup>**  
Alco

# 250 rally against governor's policies

By **JOHN MILBURN**  
Associated Press

TOPEKA — A crowd of Kansas residents gathered Friday at the Statehouse to protest Republican Gov. Sam Brownback and his administration's policies, which organizers said hurt students, elderly people and the state in general.

The hourlong rally within yards of the governor's second-floor office drew about

250 protesters who spoke against cuts in state programs, including reduced spending for public schools, the closing of some regional social services offices and the elimination of state funding for the arts.

The event was organized by a new group called Kansans United in Voice and Spirit. Protesters traveled to Topeka from Lawrence, Wichita, Salina, Winfield and other communities.

"Are you listening, Gov. Brownback? We're here. We will return and we will vote," said Crystal McComas, a clinical social worker from Lawrence who helped organize the rally. She turned toward the governor's window as she spoke.

Fellow organizer Tamara Werth, a psychologist from Lawrence, said the governor's decisions are hurting senior citizens, people with disabilities and children

by cutting spending while promising job creation.

Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag responded to the criticism by pointing out progress the administration has made since taking office in January.

"In the past eight months, Kansas has added more than 13,000 private sector jobs and turned a budget deficit into a \$100 million surplus, but there's still a lot of work to do," Jones-Sontag said.