

AUGUST'S BUSINESS OF THE MONTH!



The Savanna Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Kountry Kettle as August's Business of the Month! What made you choose this type of business? I guess you could say this business chose me (HA HA) At a young age I had dreams of being an architect/designer and would tell my parents that I was never going to work at the Kettle. Years later my parents were going thru a difficult time finding help and my mom asked if, I'd please just fill in until my dad could find a replacement. The rest is history!! How long have you been in business? My parents opened the restaurant in November 1986 and I took the business over in July 2006. What is your favorite part of your business? PEOPLE I absolutely love the friendships I've made with my customers over the many years we've been in business. If you take the time to listen, everyone has interesting stories to tell. Why are in this type of business? What service(s) or product(s) do you offer/manufacture? I pursued my family's business. Services we offer are words of advice, our opinions and counseling. All free of course! HA HA We currently offer breakfast and lunch with plans to extend to dinner. What is unique about your business? My business is a meeting place for families getting together to mourn the death of a loved

one, celebrating the birth of a new baby, laughing with their buddies about a previous night out before their wedding or, our deer hunters that come in to brag about how quickly they tagged a deer. We get to experience this with all of you! What is your background? Education, Work Experience I graduated from Savanna High School in '98 and went on to study Architectural Drafting at Clinton Community College. I worked nights at the restaurant to "pay my way" thru college and soon moved to Ames, Iowa for a couple of years, doing construction for my brother's company. Still driving to Savanna to waitress on the weekends until I relocated back to Savanna in the early 2000's to assist my parents with running the restaurant. How did you get started in this business? I never had any real plans of purchasing the business from my parents, but when my dad's health started to deteriorate from prostate cancer, I slowly started taking on more of his duties. A few years after his death I decided it was time to purchase the family business and continue in his footsteps. How did you get the background and skills necessary to run this type of business? It has definitely been a hands-on learning experience for me that started when I was extremely young. Whether it was listening to my dad having discussions with my mom, in the evenings, about issues that had come up at the restaurant that day or riding along to restaurant supply stores to pick up equipment with him. My memories have always been connected with being in the restaurant business. I've made sure to learn and build from those experiences and it has got me to where I am today. Where do you see your business in the next year? In the next five years? The next ten years? I'm currently working on a dinner menu so we can extend our hours to include evening meals. In the next five years I'm excited to see my business grow along with the growth of our town. Savanna has a lot to offer! In ten years, I hope one of my kids has taken an interest to the restaurant and would like to take on some of my duties. Slowly passing the restaurant onto another generation of my family would be AWESOME! If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be? Listen to other business owners in your industry. The advice and suggestions they have for you is PRICELESS!

