

# Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 29

Photos by Jessica Rocha



## FARMERS DAY

The 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers Day weekend was packed with events this year. Things kicked off on Friday with the Friends of the Library Book Sale, a Photography Show at the Kimball Public Library, the Plains Historical Society Quilt Show, Bike Races, the Soup Supper at the Senior Center, a Quilt Raffle at the Senior Center, Cruise Night along Historic Lincoln Highway, and “Jungle Cruise” showing at the Goodhand Theatre.

Saturday was the main event day with the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Run, followed by the parade going through downtown Kimball, the quilt show, photography show,



book sale, Farmers Day Market, free Hamburger Feed, Plains Historical Society Gun Raffle, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament, Clean Up Derby at the Fairgrounds, and another movie night at the Goodhand.

Sunday didn't disappoint either! The Kimball Kamakazee R/C Airshow was back at the Kimball Airport, the quilt show continued at the Transit Building, and the Goodhand offered one more chance to see “Jungle Cruise”.

The beautiful quilt that was made by the talented Jan Sears, was raffled off during the weekend. Congratulations to Jeff Nelson from Bushnell, NE for winning this one of a kind quilt! There were also 50 guns raffled off in the Annual Plains Historical Society Gun Raffle. The winners can be viewed on Facebook at Autolok Industries or Kimball Farmer's Day.



Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the community event and thank you to the volunteers who make this happen every year!

*(See “Photos from the Surrounding Area” for more photos)*



## SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT

During the month of September, Kimball was honored to be the first town in Nebraska to showcase the Smithsonian Exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America”. The Plains Historical Society worked all year in preparation for this exceptional exhibit. It was displayed from September 11<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and had over 500 visitors stop to view the exhibit.

“In 1900, about 40% of Americans lived in rural areas, By 2010, less than 18% of the U.S. population lived in rural areas. In just over a century, massive economic and social changes led to massive growth of America's urban areas. Yet, less than 10% of the U.S. landmass is considered urban.

Many Americans assume that rural communities are endangered and hanging on by a thread—suffering from outmigration, ailing schools, and overused land. But that perception is far from true in many areas. Many rural Americans work hard to sustain their communities. Why should revitalizing the rural places left behind matter to those who remain, those who left, and those who will come in the future? All Americans benefit from rural America's successes. We can learn great things from listening to those stories. There is much more to the story of rural America!



*Crossroads: Change in Rural America* offers small towns a chance to look at their own paths to highlight the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century. The exhibition will prompt discussions about what happened when America’s rural population became a minority of the country’s population and the ripple effects that occurred.

Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America’s small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development.

Economic innovation and a focus on the cultural facets that make small towns unique, comfortable, and desirable have helped many communities create their own renaissance. The future is bright for much of rural America as small towns embrace the notion that their citizens and their cultural uniqueness are important assets.”  
(<https://museumonmainstreet.org/content/crossroads>)

The Plains Historical Society worked with Nebraska Humanities to offer other programs as well as the Smithsonian Exhibit. These programs included “Kimball Area Business: Then and Now”, “Nebraska’s Agricultural History: Water”, “Saving a Legacy: Japanese and Japanese Americans in Nebraska”, and “Kimball Area Agriculture, Then and Now”.

Thank you to everyone with the Plains Historical Society for working so hard to bring this incredible exhibit and programming to Kimball! And thank you to everyone who stopped by to visit the display and to those who were a part of the informative programs. One tour bus driving through the area was even able to stop and see the exhibit and now plan to stop in Kimball a few times a year because of the amazing reception they received from the Plains Historical Society!

If you have an opportunity to see “Crossroads: Change in Rural America”, do it! It will be on display next in Tecumseh, NE, then Falls City, NE. It is also displayed in other states across the country, so be sure to view the tour schedule on <https://museumonmainstreet.org/content/tour-schedule>.



## AREA MEETINGS

This past month I was able to attend the Panhandle District Meeting and the Annual Heartland Expressway Meeting in Scottsbluff. John Ricks, Executive Director for the Nebraska Tourism Commission, spoke at both meetings. He was able to share with the panhandle county officials about the benefit of tourism and how we will be working more closely with them in the future to bring revenue into our state.



At the Heartland Expressway Annual Meeting, John again spoke to the group about tourism and how the Heartland Expressway could potentially benefit the Panhandle of Nebraska. The expressway has been in the works for some time, but headway is being made getting the four lane highway finished here in Nebraska. The plan has been to have a highway that goes from Mexico to Canada. “The Heartland Expressway is a Federally designated, high priority corridor. When completed, the Heartland Expressway will provide multilane, divided highway access between Rapid City, South Dakota and Denver, Colorado via Alliance, NE, Scottsbluff, NE and Brush, Colorado.” ([www.heartlandexpressway.com](http://www.heartlandexpressway.com)).

The Heartland Expressway is only a portion of the corridor, with the Ports to Plains corridor coming from Mexico to the Denver area, and the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway going from Rapid City to Canada. This will put Kimball right at the crossroads of Interstate 80 and the expressway – a great location to be able to send travelers into the panhandle and the rest of the state. A perfect opportunity to grow tourism in Kimball and the surrounding area!

## ANTELOPE STAMPEDE

This year was the inaugural year for the Antelope Stampede, a bicycle gravel race held in the western Panhandle of Nebraska. They offered a 100 mile rolling course traveling through Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, as well as 25 and 50 mile courses in Nebraska. Director of the Antelope Stampede, Jon Heidemann, and his wife Anna-Lisa, enjoyed having the participants of the race in Kimball County and look forward to a larger number of racers next year.

For more information, visit [www.peaktopeak.trainingtiltapp.com](http://www.peaktopeak.trainingtiltapp.com).

**WONDERFUL VISITORS!** We had another “Kimball” family visit us in September! It is always a joy to see people come in with our town’s namesake and who want to take a photo with our mural.

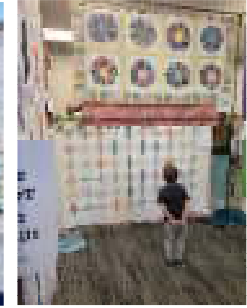
There have also been a number of people who haven’t stopped at the Visitor Center since before Covid and have commented on how wonderful the gift shop selection is now and love that it is full of locally made items. We couldn’t have such a great gift shop without all of our talented vendors!! It has been an honor to be able to showcase products by area artists and vendors and visitors really enjoy being able to support local business.



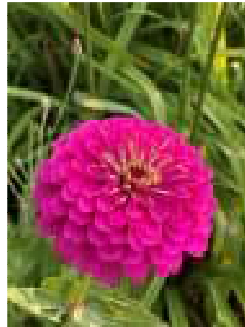
## PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



The Wheat Growers Hotel (photo on the left) was open for tours after the parade on Farmers Day. It is currently under renovation.



More photos from the Farmers Day parade and a photo from the Quilt Show on display at the Kimball Transit Building.



Some beauty in September. I have loved all the flowers of summer, but am looking forward to leaves changing color as well.

## UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

### **October: (due to COVID-19, some of the following events may be postponed or cancelled)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Pumpkin Patch at BE Farm Flash Light Night Maze
- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> – Sidney, NE – Oktoberfest 2021 at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Pumpkin Patch at BE Farm “Community Heroes Day”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – North Platte, NE – Stories, Stars, and S’more! at Buffalo Bill SRA Campground
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Chadron, NE – Harvest Moon Fall Festival at Dawes County Fairgrounds
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Flashlight Corn Maze at Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Pumpkin Patch at BE Farm “Growing for Hope”
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Alliance, NE – Carnegie Arts Center Pumpkins on the Patio
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Kimball Concert Assoc.: David Shannon at KHS Auditorium
- 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – Chadron, NE – Trading Stories 2021 Native American Film Festival
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Flashlight Corn Maze at Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chadron, NE – Chadron Triathlon
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Crawford, NE – Ft. Robinson’s Haunted Halloween
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Kimball, NE – Trunk or Treat at Kimball High School

### **November: (due to COVID-19, some of the following events may be postponed or cancelled)**

- 18<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Kimball Concert Assoc.: New Odyssey Guy at KHS Auditorium
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Holiday Craft-aganza at the Sage Brush
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Kimball Parade of Lights: “Hometown Christmas on Chestnut Street”

THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:



**GOODHAND Theatre**

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

**FREE GUY** PG-13

Showing at 7PM  
October 1 and 2  
Sunday Matinee  
at 2PM October 3

Movie Sponsored By

**KIMBALL  
AUTO PARTS**

**Admission**  
Adult (12-older) \$3.00  
Child (2-11) \$2.00  
Children under 2 Free

**FREE GUY** an action-comedy about a bank teller who discovers he is a background character in an open world video game called Free City that will soon go offline.



**GOODHAND Theatre**

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

**SPACE JAM**  
A New Legacy

Showing at 7PM  
October 15 & 16  
Sunday Matinee  
at 2PM October 17

**Admission**  
Adult (12-older) \$3.00  
Child (2-11) \$2.00  
Children under 2 Free

MOVIE SPONSORED BY  
**DAWN AND BOB HINTON**

A rogue artificial intelligence kidnaps the son of famed basketball player LeBron James, who then has to work with Bugs Bunny to win a basketball game.



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The Visitor Center is continuing to get in new items from vendors, so if you haven't found that perfect gift or souvenir yet, check in our gift shop to see what you can find. We have everything from jewelry, to photography, tea towels, dog items, books, paintings, coffee mugs, shot glasses, state spoons, keychains, magnets, postcards, and more!!!

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Please check out our Facebook page to see more events. [www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter](http://www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter)

You can also look at our website to get more information about Kimball County: [www.visitkimball.com](http://www.visitkimball.com)

Come visit us!! 204 S Kimball Blvd, Kimball, NE 69145 ~ Exit 20 off of I-80

Give us a call at 308-241-0573 if you have any questions.

#highpointofnebraska #highpointwelcomecenter #kimballcountyvisitorcenter #visitkimball