

Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 27

Photos by Jessica Rocha

UNL EDUCATOR VISIT

Kimball County was fortunate to have a group of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educators visit this past month. I have been in contact with them through the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design – Design Learning Cohort about how they might be able to assist our communities with CIRD projects.

Kim Wilson, the coordinator of their group, is a Landscape Architect who also works in depth with placemaking in communities. Bud Shenefelt is an Architect and also works with places to increase healthy living, such as through walkability. Jordan Grummert Rasmussen is a Rural Prosperities Extension Educator who does work with community leadership programs. Kristin Malek works extensively with hospitality and event management. Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel works with Extension, Marketing Rural Communities, and Community Development.



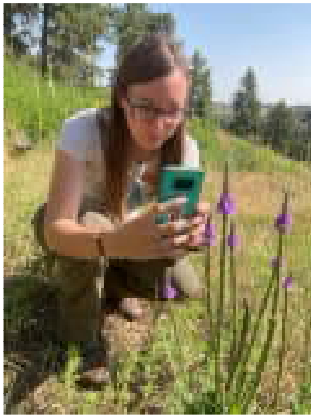
Together they are a fantastic asset to assist in our community engagement, leadership, design work, and placemaking. They met with community members from Bushnell, Kimball, and Dix, and listened to what our residents love about our towns as well as what things could be improved upon not only for the community, but for anyone who wants to visit the area.

A few projects that we are focused on would be affordable housing throughout the county, main street redesign, creating community spaces, building a community building and storm shelter in Bushnell, creating more signage for each town, making the Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway a

destination in our county, and first and foremost, getting the community on board with positive changes for our towns. Getting community engagement, youth-specific involvement, and working on leadership from community members who want to see certain things happen is key to bringing any of this to fruition. The process of working with the educators is just in the beginning stages and we are hopeful to continue working with them years into the future.

WILDCAT HILLS BIOBLITZ

In mid-July, the Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area hosted a BioBlitz in conjunction with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The morning began with some bird watching at the back observation deck where we saw a Violet-green Swallow, which they hadn't documented at that location before, finches, sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, Spotted Towhees, crossbills, chickadees, turkeys, and even a hummingbird.



Later, we learned about wildlife and nature photography, as well as the Platte Basin Timelapse, which is a fantastic project that “tells stories of the Platte River Basin using innovative multimedia content. The long-term documentary project uses more than 60 time-lapse camera systems placed throughout the 90,000 square-mile basin, from its headwaters in the Colorado Rockies to the river’s confluence with the Missouri River on Nebraska’s eastern border.” (www.plattebasintimelapse.com)



After the photo session, we went on a short hike to find wildflowers. We saw everything from yucca, to coneflowers, mullein, hoary vervain, bush morning glories, blanket flowers, catnip, sunflowers, bee balm, flax, milkweed, and more. It is always surprising how many different varieties of plants and flowers are in such a small area. And they are all so pretty!!!



Next, we went in search of bugs! The group found beetles, spiders, bumble bees, mantis, butterflies, a cicada, and a June beetle. They were lots of fun to catch and examine in the magnifying containers.

We also looked for reptiles, but didn't have any luck finding them outside. One of the group leaders who works with the Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area, did take us to the lower level of the Nature Center to show us a couple of snakes and turtles they have. The kids were able to pet the snakes and turtles and thoroughly enjoyed it!!



If you haven't taken part in a bioblitz before, I highly recommend that you do. It is a great learning experience for children and adults alike. It is a good way to remind us how the ecosystem works together and that we are just one part of the whole. And if you haven't been to the Wildcat Hills before, I also suggest you take time to see what they have to offer. Great hiking trails, views that will take your breath away, and an interactive nature center perfect for families!!



BUSHNELL DAY IS ON THE WAY!!

Bushnell Day is quickly approaching! On the 21st of August, the little village of Bushnell is planning to revive our once vibrant celebration. It has been many years since the last Bushnell Day, and we are hopeful that we can get it going strong again.

This year there will be a parade, vendor show, food vendors, antique tractor show, cornhole tournament, hog roast, 100-year volunteer fire department celebration, and two rounds of live music! Martin Gilmore will take the stage at 6:30 and the Stahla Ford Band will play at 7:30.

There will also be kids activities in the park, including mini airplane glider contests, a faux tattoo station, games, and more. High West Energy is bringing a bucket truck for rides as well.

If you are interested in being a vendor, bringing a tractor for the show, being part of the parade, or sponsoring Bushnell Day, there is still time! Please contact Jessica at 308-360-1358 for more info. We want to thank our current sponsors: Beer & Loathing, Kimball Area Foundation Fund, Nelson Farms, Miller Farms, Bushnell Lions Club, and All States Ag Parts. We also want to thank all the businesses who are donating items that will fill an incredible raffle package up for grabs. There will be gift certificates, coffee, t-shirts, a hand-poured candle, and more from local businesses!! You can check out Bushnell, Nebraska on Facebook to see updates on Bushnell Day and the raffle package.

WONDERFUL VISITORS!

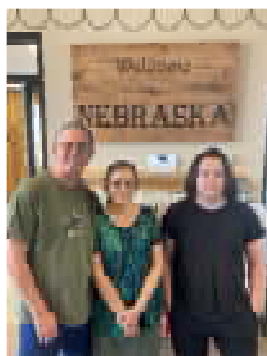


July was another month filled with amazing people! We had great groups from all across the US who are roadtripping, moving across the country, taking a break from the city, or just checking off a couple more states.

The photos include a family from Sacramento who were traveling through Nebraska, twins from Tarzana who made our day with

their smiles and laughter, a couple who were taking a roadtrip in their beautiful Thunderbird, and a group headed west with Moostash Joe Tours. We also had another family with the last name of Kimball who stopped to get some souvenirs as well.

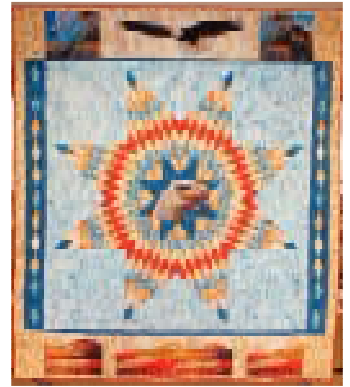
We continue to appreciate everyone who is taking time to stop here at the Kimball County Visitor Center. Enjoy your travels!!



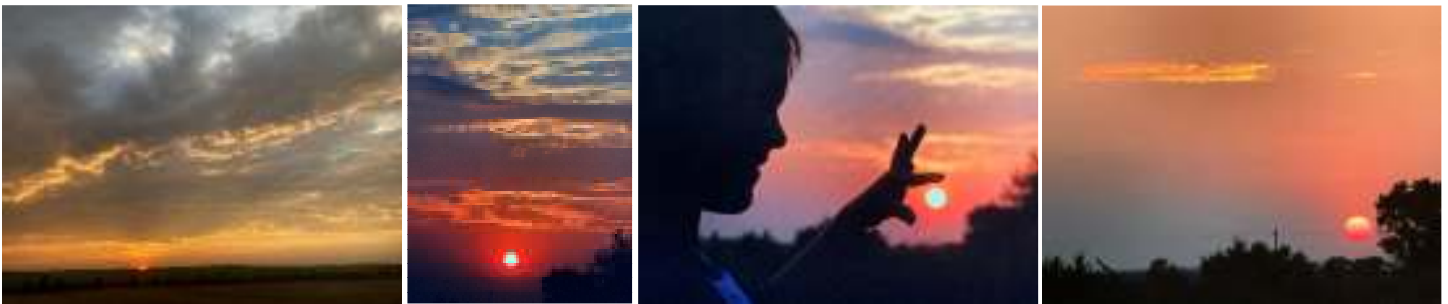
QUILT RAFFLE

The Plains Historical Society is selling raffle tickets for this gorgeous quilt made by Jan Sears. The drawing will be held on Farmers Day September 25th. The Plains Historical Society will also have their Annual Gun Raffle tickets available for \$50 each. Money from these raffles will help fund projects at both museum locations.

Plains Historical Society members have tickets or you can get your quilt raffle tickets at the Visitor Center now! (\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20)



PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



There were lots of beautiful sunrises, sunsets, and moon rises with all the smoke in the air from wildfires throughout the country this past month. Even though I love the color it creates, please keep praying for rain!



My family enjoyed a short vacation in the northern Nebraska Panhandle at Walgren Lake, and also went to Hot Springs, SD for a quick trip to the Mammoth Site and to get some natural spring water and yummy ice cream downtown!



We were able to venture to Greeley, CO as well to see a tractor show this past month. Lots of beautiful old equipment and fun things like a corn shucker and rubber ducky run for this kids to play with.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

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

- 2nd-9th – Kimball, NE – Kimball-Banner County Fair (see schedule below)
- 3rd – Potter, NE – Chuckaboo Station Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Celebration
- 3rd – Sidney, NE – National Night Out at the Sidney Aquatic Center
- 4th-7th – Mitchell, NE – Scotts Bluff County Fair
- 5th – Kimball, NE – The Big Boy Steam Engine No. 4014 Whistle Stop
- 5th-8th – Pine Bluffs, WY – 71st Annual Pine Bluffs Trail Days
- 6th -7th – North Platte, NE – North Platte Rail Days
- 7th – Mitchell, NE – 38th Annual Rubber Check Race @ Scotts Bluff County Fairgrounds
- 7th – Gering, NE – Opening Ceremonies for Old West Balloon Fest
- 9th-14th – Scottsbluff/Gering/Mitchell, NE – Old West Balloon Fest
- 13th – Scottsbluff, NE – 10th Annual Best of the West Beer & Wine Fest
- 13th-14th – Crawford, NE – White River Wacipi – A Native American Experience
- 21st – Bushnell, NE – Bushnell Day – antique tractor show, parade, vendors, and more!
- 27th – Sept 6th – Grand Island, NE – Nebraska State Fair

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

- 3-6th – Crawford, NE – Crawford Rock Show
- 4th-5th – Potter, NE – Potter Days & PNCC Potter 120 & The Big Boy Party in the Pasture
- 11th-30th – Kimball, NE – Smithsonian Exhibit: Crossroads @ Plains Historical Society
- 18th – North Platte, NE – Western Nebraska Craft Beer Festival
- 18th – Bayard, NE – The Heirloom Market Fall Market
- 25th – Kimball, NE – Demolition Derby @ Kimball County Fairgrounds
- 25th-26th – Kimball, NE – Farmers Day Weekend

Kimball-Banner County 4-H Fair Schedule

Monday, August 2:

5 pm Pre-Fair cleanup

Tuesday, August 3:

8 am – 12 pm Fashion Revue & Clothing

Judging

11 am – 4 pm Enter 4-H and FFA Static Exhibits

6 pm – Public Fashion Show

Wednesday, August 4:

8:30 am 4-H Horse Showmanship and Halter

Horsemanship

Thursday, August 5:

10 am – 5 pm 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall Open

10 am – 11 am Dog Show

3:30 pm – 5 pm Small Animal Show

5:30 pm Kimball County Ag Open Gymkhana

Friday, August 6:

10 am – 7 pm 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall Open

8 am FFA Market Hogs & Showmanship, Swine

& Market Swine Showmanship

Following Hog Show: Dairy Goat Show &

Showmanship

Following Dairy Goat Show: FFA Market Sheep

& Showmanship

Following Sheep Show: 4-H Meat Goat

Showmanship

7 pm Mini Bull Riding and Mutton Bustin (\$10

Adults, \$5 5-12, Free under 4)

Saturday, August 7:

10 am – 7 pm 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall Open

8:30 am FFA Market Beef & Showmanship

4-H Bucket Calf

Clover Kids Bucket Calf Showmanship

1 hour after bucket calf – 4-H Market Beef Show:

Club group of three, Round Robin Showmanship & FFA

Old Timers Show

2 pm – 8 pm Free Fall Combo and Bounce

House for kids of all ages

5 pm Mare & Foal Parade (downtown to fairgrounds)

8 pm PRCA Rodeo in the arena/Mutton Bustin (\$10 Adults, \$5 5-12, Free under 4)

Sunday, August 8:

8 am PRCA Rodeo Slack

12 pm Mare & Foal Parade (downtown to fairgrounds)

12 pm – 5 pm Free Fall Combo and Bounce

House for kids of all ages

1 pm – 4 pm 4-H & FFA Exhibit Hall Open

2 pm PRCA Rodeo in the arena (\$10 Adults, \$5 5-12, Free under 4)

4 pm Release 4-H & FFA Static Exhibits

5 pm – 4-H & FFA Parade of Champions

5:30 pm Free Hamburger Feed for the

Community & Free Ice Cream Social

6 pm Catch a Calf

7 pm Ag Society Raffle Drawing

7 pm Chore Time Relays

7 pm Release 4-H & FFA Animal Exhibits not being sold

Monday, August 9:

9 am 4-H & FFA Market Livestock Auction

Bushnell Day

Events of the day:

- 10 am - Parade
- 10 am - 5pm - Antique Tractor Show
- 10 am - 5 pm - Vendor Show
- 2 pm - Cornhole Tournament
- 5 pm - Hog Roast @ Fire Hall
- 6:30 pm - Live music w/Martin Gilmore
- 7:30 pm - Live music w/Stahla Ford Band

Food Trucks & Vendors
Kids Activities at Hammond Park
100 Year Fire Department Celebration
High West Bucket Truck Rides

Enjoy a day of free family fun
along the Historic Lincoln Highway
National Scenic Byway!



LOCATION: BUSHNELL, NEBRASKA
DATE: SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2021

Tractor/Exhibitor # _____

Antique Tractor Show Registration Form

Show is open to any make and model of tractor, 25 years old or older.

There will be three prizes awarded: Best of Show, Judge's Choice, and People's Choice.

Tractor Make: _____

Tractor Model: _____

Tractor Year: _____

Tractor Color: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail completed forms to Jessica Rocha, PO Box 125, Bushnell, NE 69128 or email them to Jessica at jessicamaerocha@gmail.com. Call Jessica at 308-360-1358 with any questions.

I hereby release the Village of Bushnell, its board members, and sponsors from any and all responsibility or liability for injury or damages; and also release and agree to indemnify the Village of Bushnell against any damage claims, legal proceeding, or judgement arising out of the transportation, or exhibition of the listed participant at Bushnell Day, and further agree to hold the Village of Bushnell harmless from any claim or suit for injury, damage, or blame resulting from the participation in the antique tractor show. I hereby enter this contest at my own risk and recognize that I will be responsible for any accidents or injury incurred or property damage to others caused by me or my tractor.

Signature of participant

Date

Bushnell Day Cornhole Tournament

Team Registration Form

Team Name: _____

Participant #1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Participant #2 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Location: Bushnell, Nebraska

Date: Saturday August 21, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Registration fee: \$20 per team

Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams placing in this event.

Grand Prize: \$100

2nd Place Prize: \$50

How to register: Fee may be paid via cash or check and must be submitted with this registration form. Checks may be made payable to Jessica Rocha. Please return payment and registration form to Jessica at the Kimball County Visitor Center, 204 S Kimball Blvd, Kimball, NE 69145 or mail it to Jessica at PO Box 125, Bushnell, NE 69128. Call Jessica at 308-360-1358 for more information. Teams are not considered registered until fee is paid. Must be registered by August 19th, 2021. Registration fees will not be returned.

Rules and Regulations: Cornhole boards, bags, and score boards will be provided. Teams are encouraged to bring their own bags and boards if they are able. Teams will be expected to keep their own score. Teams should not interfere with one another. This tournament will be double elimination. Starting brackets will be drawn randomly

Tournament will follow American Cornhole Association Rules. Rules will be provided. For more information, visit <https://www.playcornhole.org/pages/rules>.

All teams are asked to be respectful of one another and other attendees. This is a family friendly event. Each team member plays at their own risk and by returning this registration form acknowledges that the Village of Bushnell is not responsible for any personal injury or damage to one's property one might incur by participating in this tournament.

All proceeds go toward Bushnell Day entertainment.

THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:



THE GARDEN WAS SMALL POTATOES

GoodHAND Theatre

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

PETER RABBIT 2 THE RUNAWAY PG

**SHOWING AT 7PM
AUGUST 6 & 7
SUNDAY MATINEE
AUGUST 8**

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

Thomas and Bea are now married and living with Peter and his rabbit family. Bored of life in the garden, Peter goes to the big city, where he meets shady characters and ends up creating chaos for the whole family.



Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

F9 PG-13
THE FAST SAGA

**SHOWING AT 7PM
AUGUST 20 & 21
SUNDAY MATINEE AT 2 PM
AUGUST 22**

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

Movie Sponsored By
Farm Bureau Financial Services
Shavonne Singleton

No matter how fast you are, no one outruns their past. Dom Toretto is leading a quiet life off the grid with Letty and his son, little Brian, but they know that danger always lurks just over their peaceful horizon. This time, that threat will force Dom to confront the sins of his past if he's going to save those he loves most. His crew joins together to stop a world-shattering plot led by the most skilled assassin and high-performance driver they've ever encountered: a man who also happens to be Dom's forsaken brother, Jakob. Along the way, old friends will be resurrected, old foes will return, history will be rewritten, and the true meaning of family will be tested like never before.

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!!!

Please check out our Facebook page to see more events. www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter

You can also look at our website to get more information about Kimball County: 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