

# Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 30

Photos by Jessica Rocha

## NEBRASKA TOURISM CONFERENCE

I enjoyed a week in Grand Island this past month at the Nebraska Tourism Conference. The conference started off on Tuesday with



bus tours of regional tourism assets. These included Zabuni Specialty Coffee, Crane Trust Nature Center, and Gjerloff Prairie: Prairie Plains Resource Institute.

We enjoyed tasting Zabuni's coffee as well as learning about their mission to change the lives of coffee farmers in Kenya with direct sale auctioning of the coffee here in the US. At the Crane Trust Nature Center, we learned about all the things they are doing to protect the area for continued Sandhills Crane migration, as well as all of the bugs, reptiles, and other animals in the area. At Gjerloff Prairie, we learned about all they do for children to be a part of nature at their summer programs, their prairie pathways for anyone wanting to get out of the city for a walk, and also about their seed collection process. They harvest and sell seeds from wildflowers and native grasses to work on prairie restoration, and in turn, wildlife conservation, livestock forage production and soil conservation, as well as often overlooked benefits for water filtration and



percolation into the ground.

I started attending sessions on Wednesday. We opened the day with breakfast with our District Tourism Commissioner, Starr Lehl from Scottsbluff, then listened to a great keynote about the "chance of awesome." Jason Kotecki, the speaker, told us all to "live like someone left the gate open" and in times of negativity or tragedy, to constantly ask ourselves, "Now that this has happened, what does this make possible?" It was a great speech to give us all a boost. Other sessions included discussions on



storytelling, the local food scene, casinos, regional collaboration, astrotourism, and using Google tools.



We also enjoyed a “taste & feel” of downtown Grand Island. This was an excellent evening in the Railside District. We started at the Grand Island Visitors Bureau where we sampled some fantastic sliders. Then, we went across to The Chocolate Bar, where, of course, I had to buy some chocolate!! They also had a variety of vendors on site so we could sample wine, bison jerky, hard cider, and other products. Finally, we ventured over to Prairie Pride Brewing. There were more beer samplings as well as protein bar samples made with hamburger, blueberries, and cabbage. It was a great time and we enjoyed being able to see what not only downtown Grand Island has to offer, but what other Nebraska vendors are doing across the state.

On Thursday night, we had a delightful dinner at the awards banquet at the Liederkrantz. The Liederkrantz Club was founded on November 7, 1870. It presently has the distinction of being the oldest club in Grand Island. It was organized as a singing society to promote singing, music, drama, art, and literature. The facility includes a dining room, lounge, bowling alley, meeting hall, ballroom, and enclosed courtyard. ([www.liederkrantzgi.org](http://www.liederkrantzgi.org))



The awards for 2021 included: HENRY FONDA Award: The Vala Family; FRIEND OF TOURISM Award: Steve White, Grand Island; OUTSTANDING EVENT (POPULATION 9,999 OR BELOW): Seward's Fourth of July Celebration; OUTSTANDING EVENT (POPULATION 10,00 OR ABOVE): The 2021 National High School Finals Rodeo in Lincoln; OUTSTANDING MARKETING CAMPAIGN: Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds and KidGlov for the 2021 National High School Finals Rodeo; OUTSTANDING TOURISM ATTRACTION: The Edgerton Explorit Center; OUTSTANDING ECOTOURISM ENTITY: Fontenelle Forest; THE 2021 PASSPORT CHAMPION'S CHOICE AWARD: Smith Falls State Park; 2021 NEBRASKA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION'S CRYSTAL COMPASS AWARD: Sports Nebraska.

A huge thank you to the Nebraska Tourism Commission for another great conference!!



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of October, we displayed a collection of decorated shoes in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We would like to thank Fran Wallin, a Kimballite and breast cancer survivor, for allowing us to display it here at the Visitor Center!

A shoutout to all those who have had breast cancer or have had a family member with breast cancer. The road is not easy and there are days that hurt more than others, but there is always someone to lean on. If you need someone to talk to or a shoulder to cry on, never be afraid to reach out. My thoughts are with all of those affected by cancer and I hope that someday we will be able to put cancer behind us. Until that time, please get checked regularly!

I honor my mom, Deb Carpenter-Nolting, another breast cancer survivor, in October. This year marked 15 years of her being cancer free!!



## REMEMBRANCE RUG

Kimball is honored to house a unique tapestry, titled the Remembrance Rug. It is a latch-hook rug that was started in December 2003 to pay tribute to those killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and elsewhere. It is now over 1,000 sq ft and 250 feet in length. The assembler, Rodger Asai, has spent over 15,000 hours so far making the Remembrance Rug and used 4.7 million pieces of yarn creating symbols for each person represented on the tapestry. He has about 6 dozen binders containing the names and background information of the people represented. If you are interested in seeing the Remembrance Rug for yourself, it is housed downtown Kimball at 123 S Chestnut St.

(photo courtesy of Rodger Asai)



## TRUNK OR TREAT

This year's Trunk or Treat was cold, but still enjoyed by many! Local businesses and residents put on a show with decorated vehicles and handed out lots of candy. Thank you to all who participated!



(photos provided by Bradley Leis and Nikki Stubbe-Hottell)



## WONDERFUL VISITORS!

We enjoyed a visit from two ladies traveling with their daughters from Georgia who were checking off states! What a great way to spend time with your friends and family and also learn about our amazing country! They were a delight to chat with and I wish them all the best with their travels.

Another visitor was a teacher currently in Colorado, but originally from the United Kingdom. Thanks for coming to explore more of the US!

We have continued to have a good number of people coming through our doors and we love being here to help them out. We appreciate everyone who stops in to see us!

## PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



Some photos from along Highway 30 on the drive to Grand Island – I love all the murals!!!



Beautiful fall colors get me every year. What a gorgeous way to remember that change can be a good thing. There was also amazing fog in the area a week or so ago.



We also stopped at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Raising Nebraska is a FANTASTIC place! So much information on agriculture and farming/ranching to teach kids what Nebraska is all about. There are also a variety of interactive components that make it really fun!



## UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Kimball, NE – Art/Craft Class Meeting at Kimball Public Library
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kimball, NE – Drive-Thru Covid Vaccine Booster Clinic at Kimball Health Services
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time Ends – Fall Back!
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE - Presbyterian Church Spaghetti Supper
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Bayard, NE – 2021 Sip & Sample at the Bayard Depot Museum
- 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> – Gering, NE – WyoBraska Metaphysical Fair at Gering Civic Center
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Kimball Concert Assoc.: New Odyssey Guy at KHS Auditorium
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving
- 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”
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Small Business Saturday at the Kimball Public Library

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

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Holiday Open House at the Kimball County Visitor Center
- 21<sup>st</sup> – First Day of Winter
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas
- 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year’s Eve

## THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:



Friends of the  
Goodhand  
Theatre  
presents:  
**The Addams Family 2** **PG**  
**Showing at 7 PM**  
**November 5 & 6**  
**Showing at 2 PM**  
**November 7**  
**ALSO SHOWING THE**  
**WEEKEND OF**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 13 & 14**

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

**MOVIE SPONSORED BY**  
**THE Kimball Fitness**  
**Center**

Everyone's favorite spooky family is back! Morticia and Gomez are distraught that their children are growing up, skipping family dinners, and totally consumed with 'scream time.' To reclaim their bond they decide to cram Wednesday, Pugsley, Uncle Fester and the crew into their haunted camper and hit the road for one last miserable family vacation. What could possibly go wrong?



Friends of the  
Goodhand  
Theatre  
presents:  
**SHANG-CHI AND**  
**THE LEGEND OF**  
**THE TEN RINGS** **PG-13**  
**SHOWING AT 7PM**  
**NOVEMBER 19 & 20**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE AT 2 PM**  
**NOVEMBER 21**  
**MOVIE SPONSORED BY**  
**Stoney's**  
**Real Pit Barbeque**

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

Marvel Studios' "Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings" stars Simu Liu as Shang-Chi, who must confront the past he thought he left behind when he is drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organization.



# Holiday Open House

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**

**2:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Kimball County Visitor Center  
204 S Kimball Blvd, Kimball, NE**

Enjoy hot chocolate, snacks, FREE holiday  
photos and find that last minute gift  
you've been looking for!

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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](https://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**