

KINSLEY | KANSAS

Celebrates



by Heather Strate

The City of Kinsley will be celebrating its 150th Birthday over Labor Day weekend in conjunction with the KHS All-School Reunion. You will not want to miss out on the fun!

The celebration will kick off with a parade through Pioneer (South) Park starting at 3 p.m., Friday, September 1st. All are welcome to participate! So spruce up your fancy automobiles, antique farm machinery, ATVs, bicycles, and golf carts! Saddle up your horses and hop on a float with your class, business, sports team, civic group, or just your friends! No pre-entry is required. Just line up at 2:30 pm on 12th Street (street to the south of the park restrooms and ball courts) facing east. The parade route will head east on 12th, south down Briggs, west down Park Road (road in between Pink Building and baseball grandstands), turn left behind the pool, and finish in front of the football grandstands.

Following the parade, a Pep Rally will be led by the KHS cheerleaders in the football stands, then you are invited to pre-game in the park. The beer garden and food trucks will be available from 3 p.m. to midnight. Food vendors for Friday night include KHS Senior Class concessions at the football game, Crazy G's Shaved Ice, and Smell What's Cookin' BBQ at the park.

A special Veterans Appreciation Ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the football grandstands. Veterans from all branches of the armed forces are encouraged to attend to be recognized for their service. The KHS Coyotes vs. Victoria Knights football game will kick off at 7 p.m. followed by fireworks sponsored by Kinsley PRIDE. Admission to the game is free for veterans and \$5 for non-veteran adults.

Saturday, September 2nd activities will start at 9 a.m. with breakfast at the KHS cafeteria prepared by the KHS cheer squad. Breakfast burritos, cinnamon rolls, donuts, and juice will be available. School tours of both Kinsley High School and Kinsley-Offerle Elementary School will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The beer garden and food trucks will be available from 11 a.m. to midnight in Pioneer (South) Park. Food vendors for Saturday include Amelia's Tacos, Crazy G's Shaved Ice, Floyd's Smoke Shack, Mock N'Roll, Romano's Pizza, Smell What's Cookin' BBQ, and Burkhart Meats will have samples to taste.

The Classic Car Show will begin at 11 a.m. with awards held at 3 p.m. in the park. Entering a vehicle in the car show is free with awards sponsored by Strictly Hot Rods and Naborhood Electric. For more information contact Gary Carlson at 620-225-0779.

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., classes can have their group photos taken at the Pink Building by Kristine Puthoff of Circle P Photography. Head downtown (6th Street) at 2 p.m. for an Old West Shootout reenactment. While you are there, do the Kinsley Downtown Walking Tour. The Self-Guided Tour Booklets were prepared by Joan Weaver of the Kinsley Public Library and contain pictures and the history of downtown buildings. The booklets will be available for free at the information table next to the beer garden. The tour begins at Circle K Auto Parts.

Kinsley PRIDE will sponsor a reception at the Edwards County Fair Building from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity to visit with classmates and friends. The Fair Building will be open all day Saturday for individuals who would like to congregate in air-conditioned comfort.

There are plenty of activities for the kids on Saturday as well! Amanda Wheaton will bring her Petting Zoo to the park from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. sponsored by Andrew Schmidt Big Iron Auctions. Kinsley Food Pride has sponsored Bounce Houses from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The KHS All-School Reunion Benefit Auction will take place at 5 p.m. at Pioneer (South) Park. All proceeds will go to support future reunions. Some of the items to be auctioned include K-State Tickets donated by Strate Farms, handmade pottery donated by Jennifer Gleason, a gift basket donated by Kinsley Drug Company, a barn quilt donated by Jean Huntley, metal art donated by the Kent Nabor family, cornhole game donated by Jimmy & Dianna Heinz, stained glass art donated by Danny Schaller, and an Edwards County Centennial Book donated by Bette Ryan. In addition, Kinsley High School has donated the old football field scoreboard sign and a Kinsley Coyote Banner. Twice Is Nice has donated a unique cap quilt. Gary Wagner will be serving as auctioneer.

The Variety Show will be held at 7 p.m. There is no fee to participate. Those interested in showing off their talent should go to the information table next to the beer garden between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. The night will conclude with a dance featuring the band D.O.C. of Hays, Kansas from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Join us Sunday, September 3rd for a Community Church Service officiated by Pastor Steve Patterson of the Kinsley Congregational Church in the tent at the park starting at 10 a.m. Brunch will be served at 11 a.m. prepared by Tom's Kountry Kitchen and served by the KJH Cheerleaders.

The beer garden and food trucks will be available from noon to 6 p.m. Food vendors for Sunday include Smell What's Cookin' BBQ and Floyd's Snow-Cones.

The time capsule buried in 1973 during the Kinsley 100th Anniversary will be opened at 1 p.m. at the Edwards County Historical Society Museum followed by an open house of the museum until 3 p.m. Individuals are invited to bring items to put into a new time capsule. Bradley Benish with the Edwards County Chamber of Commerce can provide additional information at 620-338-1557.

Sunday Funday will take place at Pioneer (South) Park from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. with cornhole, horseshoe, and pickleball tournaments.

The cornhole tournament is limited to the first 32 two-person teams that pay the \$30 registration fee. Individuals must be at least 16 years old to participate. Cash prize payouts will be made for the top 4

winning teams. Brackets will be drawn at 1:30 p.m. Contact Abby Heinz at 620-659-5553 for more information or to register your team.

The horseshoe tournament will also begin at 2:00 p.m. with bracket seeding numbers being drawn at 1:30 p.m. Registration will take place at the event and the fee is \$10 per person. The tournament will be a blind draw double elimination tournament. After prize payouts, proceeds for the cornhole and horseshoe tournaments will go to the Offerle Community Foundation.

The pickleball tournament will be a round-robin of doubles, however, you won't need a partner as all participants will play each other. Participants will keep track of their score each time they play. The player with the highest score at the end is the winner. Those interested in entering should meet at the pickleball courts at 2 p.m.

The reunion will conclude with Champagne on the Prairie at the Badger Hill Ranch (Jerry Anderson Farm). Participants will take a hayrack ride to the prairie to watch the gorgeous Kansas sunset while enjoying champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Seating is limited so you must register in advance (if you have not registered by August 24th call Linette Miller at 620-339-9260 to see if any seats remain). Admission is \$20 payable at the event. Participants should meet at 80th Ave. & C Road to board the hayracks. Directions: From Kinsley go 8 miles on 100th Ave. (Rozel blacktop) to D Road. Turn west and continue for 2 miles to 80th Ave. Turn north and travel one mile to the meeting spot.

If you missed the apparel deadline, there will be commemorative t-shirts, hats, and koozies available for sale at the park. Updated KHS Alumni Books will also be available at the park for \$5 each.

The KHS Reunion Committee is accepting monetary donations at Farmers Bank and Trust in Kinsley, on Venmo (@Kinsley-Reunion), or at the Edwards County Economic Development Office.

The Committee is also accepting donations for Auction Items. Items can be dropped off at Kinsley City Hall, Edwards County Economic Development Office (721 Marsh Ave), or brought to the Pink Building prior to the auction. These auction items could include Coyote or Kinsley memorabilia, quilts, handmade wood and/or metal-crafted items, art, trips, etc. If you plan on bringing an auction item with you to the event, please be sure to notify a committee member (Linette Miller, Tonya Taylor, Beth Schmitt, Brandi Hatstrup, Andrew Schmidt, and Heather Strate) of that item in advance, so that we can have a complete listing prior to the auction.

The Reunion Committee is still looking for volunteers to help with various tasks. Possible volunteer opportunities include set-up Wednesday evening and Friday morning, clean-up Sunday at 6 p.m., information table Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and Beer Garden Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Please take a few hours out of your weekend to help! Contact a committee member if you would like to volunteer.

You can find more information about the Kinsley All-School Reunion and Kinsley 150th Sesquicentennial by joining the KHS All School Reunion Facebook Group or by going to www.kinsleyhighreunion.com. Thank you in advance for helping us make this reunion and sesquicentennial possible!

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