

- A premiere sportsman's race track can be built for \$6.5mil. This track would handle Top alcohol dragsters and funny cars and seat 5,000 fans with 300 race cars. Weekly events could be scheduled. The petition includes inflation and cost overruns.
- Average citizen in Kimball County would see a \$7.50 a month rise in personal property taxes to cover the bond issue.
- Universities of Colorado and Nebraska economic studies of similar tracks indicate the race track would bring \$2.5mil to the Kimball economy yearly. This does not include \$402,483 in track profit.
- High Point Motor Speedway has brought more money this year to the Kimball Event Center than any other business. Over 400 Motocross and Drag racers have attended events at the center. This equals 20 per cent of the population of the City of Kimball. The city of Denver, Colorado would have to draw 260,000 people to reach the same result.
- After phase 2 (drag strip) is completed, there is enough space at the proposed site to build a circle track. Other events that could be held at that time include demolition derby, tractor pulls, monster truck rallies, go-kart races and lawn mower races.
- The U.S. Weather service says the average wind speed at Bandimere Speedway in Morrison, Colorado is 20.31mph. Average wind speed in Kimball, Nebraska is 19.95mph. Wind has been a question asked by many.
- The County has monies set aside for special elections.
- The county valuation is presently \$577,267,314.00. This is an increase of \$40,202,000.00 in one year. At this rate the valuation in 2020 will be \$939,085,000.00. At the current rate, statistics show the county population will decrease by 800 people for a total of 3,200. If nothing is done to bring increased revenue to the county, how much will our taxes have to go up to sustain these numbers?
- After the race track initiative passes the election, one of the first responsibilities of the county commissions would be to pick a 5 member board to oversee all activities associated with the race track.

- One of the first duties of that board would be to put out for bid the location of the track. Major requirements would be: track has to be 4,000 feet long on at least 150 acres and must be in Kimball County. Anyone in the county could bid on this proposed site.
- Proposed facility would require 300 race car parking spots of 70 feet long by 24 feet wide. The site must have water.
- Parking for 500 spectator vehicles with 2 entrances and 3 exits.
- The facility would also include a ½ acre children's playground.
- With a 250 car count the track could profit \$250,000.00 yearly. This money could be used to help pay down the bond issue.
- Six full time positions are proposed and the state has said they would give \$50,000.00 for each full time position after the first year. This means \$300,000.00 plus \$250,000.00 in the first year if all numbers are met. \$550,000.00 could potentially be used against the debt the first year. This helps pay down the bonds quicker.

Kimball County has two great resources to draw from to create opportunities.

1. The first one is its location.

- We have done many hours of research and the facts are obvious. Kimball's central location to the Front Range of Colorado, proximity to Wyoming, and its neighbors in Nebraska, makes the 250 car count reasonable and should mean much success.
- Moving the track 50 miles in one direction drastically changes the numbers.
- Location, location, location along with great people will make this a reality. Many cities in the Midwest are taking destiny into their own hands.

2. Second, I have had the opportunity in the last three years to meet many great people. One theme is obvious – belief in Kimball's future.

- Many want to make Kimball County better and change the direction we are headed.
- I have met so many people who volunteer for many different activities and they are making a difference. Not all counties have this resource and we should consider ourselves very lucky.

With such a great location and so many great people we can be successful. If everyone learns the truth about the potential opportunities of the race track, nothing but positive things will happen.

One has to ask why Kimball County hasn't exploited these facts before and became a destination center thus alluring outsiders' money. People who have lived here for quite some time tell me it's because there was never a vote; county commissioners never felt it was necessary. Perhaps that's true, I don't know. Thanks to our county leaders we now have that opportunity to vote and we need to take advantage of it.

Several people have commented this week that Kimball County is caught up in the recession and that is why the population is declining. Let's take a look at some of our neighbors and see how the recession has affected them over the last 10 years. The following statistics were taken from the 2010 U.S. Census.

Cities within 50 miles of Kimball with an increase in population include:

- Burns Wyoming is experiencing a 53.68 % growth rate. The city has been working with developers and it seems to be paying off.
- Pine Bluffs Wyoming has a 3.21% growth rate. Slow but steady.
- Sidney Nebraska has a 7.6% growth rate. It is also ranked in the top 100 cities for best place to live in the United States.
- Gering Nebraska grew by 12.7%. Lots of public and private money has been invested.
- The U.S. Census says Scotts Bluff County will experience a positive 12% growth rate over the next 10 years. Lots of focus on tourism.
- Potter Nebraska with a plus 3 % over this time period. What a pleasant town they have become.

Cities and counties with a decrease in population include:

- Dix decreased by 12.4% in the last 10 years
- Bushnell decreased by 18.27% in the last 10 years.
- Kimball decreased by 16.28% over the same period.
- Banner County decreased by 15.8%.

The growing cities have found a niche that works for them and they are working with their champions of change to make a real difference. They have become destination centers. They are places of pride and have a feeling of belonging.

Some people say the rural parts of Kimball and Banner counties are doing fine but the numbers do not verify that. Change takes courage, time, effort, money and a will to make it happen. Kimball County has several champions of change and they deserve our support. With lots of work, personal investment and a good attitude, positive change will happen. Kimball has the location and people to make a difference.