



Steffanie Agnew - Seguin Gazette

A child pets a calf at the petting zoo during the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Festival in Kingsbury on Saturday that hosted by Habitable Spaces.

Harvest Fest

Kingsbury comes together for annual festival

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Downtown Kingsbury was filled with good food, fun activities and a lot of interesting, homemade items to see and buy on Saturday at the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Festival.

The event was hosted by Habitable Spaces, an artist residency program and sustainable farm founded in Kingsbury. The organization was co-

founded by husband and wife, Shane Heinemeier and Alison Ward.

Ward said there was a variety of things for people to do and see, and described the event as heavily community driven.

"What I love about this festival is that everybody just jumps in and participates," she said. "We've got the veterans doing a hay dive for kids. We've got our neighbors down there with a petting zoo. People can ride

in a Model-T or an old ambulance. You could dance to the live music. It's super casual, and super community coming together. It's all about Kingsbury and the people in it."

Beatrice Siegel, 6, of San Antonio attended with her sister, Francis Siegel, 6, and father, Sam Siegel. She said the hay dive was her favorite activity. The hay dive included \$500



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Joy Ready, of Kingsbury, views items for sale from a vendor during the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Festival in Kingsbury on Saturday that hosted by Habitable Spaces. See more photos on **page 5**.

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dollars in coins that children under 12 could search for within the hay.

"I really liked the hay dive," she said. "It was a lot of fun."

Sam Siegel said it was their second year attending, and they would be back next year.

"It's a nice event and it's a good chance to support the community out here," he said. "We enjoy coming out, and getting out of

town for a little road trip."

Joy Ready said she was a new Kingsbury and Texas resident and was attending with her neighbor. She was impressed with the event and said she was also having a good time.

"I'm new to the area, but it seems very nice for a small town to do things like this," she said. "Everyone's quite friendly and accommodating. I'm excited to hit the food booths."

Those who attended could enjoy a meal from Sloppy Seconds BBQ, try homemade ice cream, participate in Pigeon Sh*t

Bingo or view one of the many vendors selling homemade items and art.

They could also trade homemade items or art in the Habitable Spaces Trading Post, Heinemeier said.

For the Trading Post, the whole idea is to bring handmade items or something you made yourself and trade for other items that are made," he said. "We made items ourselves for the Post, there's pickled items, farm goods and art goods too."

The Trading Post was a hit at this year's event and was popular in the past as

well, said Ward.

"The funny thing is people remember it year after year, and people make stuff specifically to trade at the post now," she said.

Ward said the festival started six years ago and has grown since.

"Shane and I started at our farm six years ago," she said. "At first, it was just a kind of a little gathering at our farm, pretty casual. Then we started inviting fellow farmers to come bring items and set up booths. By year three, Kingsbury decided that they wanted it to move

downtown, so we brought everything downtown and have been doing it here ever since."

Heinemeier hoped those that came out took away a good sense of Kingsbury pride.

"Events like these are a good way to preserve a certain part of the heritage in these small towns that are somewhat drying up," he said. "We have to really cherish these things and make sure they continue to happen. That's why we started this whole thing. Nothing like this was going on in Kingsbury before we started this, but

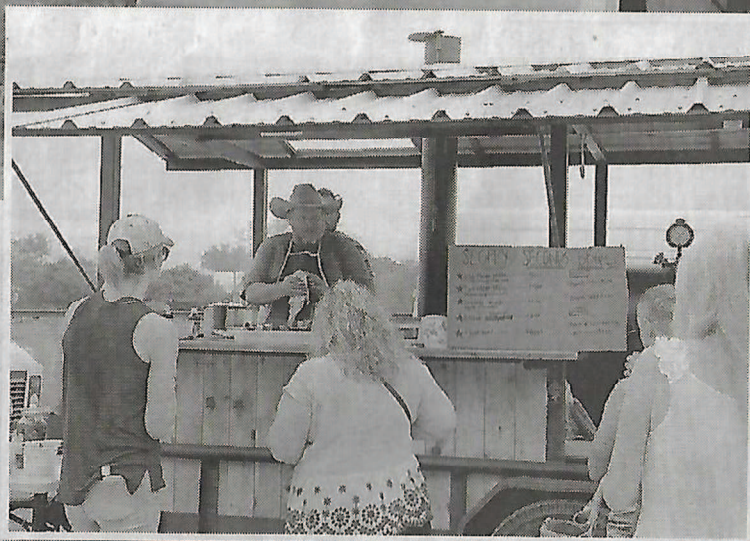
once we started, everyone was ready to do it."

Ward echoed Heinemeier's sentiment and said she could see the change occurring in the community from hosting the Fall Harvest Festival.

"Something that's already started happening just from Fall Harvest in the past is that community members have met each other who didn't know each other before," she said. "Trades have started happening outside Fall Harvest. Ride Share has happened. Just sharing in general, and getting to know the community."



ABOVE: Habitable Spaces co-founders Shane Heine-meier and Alison Ward stand in the windows of the Trading Post booth during the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Festival's Hay Dive on Saturday in Kingsbury. Their organization hosted the Fall Harvest Festival event.



ABOVE LEFT: Attendees of the the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Festival in Kingsbury wait in line to buy barbecue from Sloppy Seconds BBQ on Saturday. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Children search for coins and hidden treasures during the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Festival's Hay Dive on Saturday in Kingsbury.

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