

Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

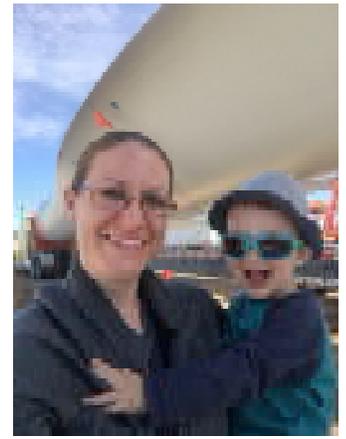
Volume 11

AMAZING BLADES!

In March, we were blessed to have many wind turbine blade trucks, along with their pilot vehicles, park in our truck parking area. All of the drivers were so kind and became part of our Visitor Center family very quickly. We were amazed again at their ability to park these massive vehicles. This time they fit SIX of the trucks in the parking lot – with extra room left over!

The drivers also stayed in Kimball motels and spent time and money in our community's restaurants and businesses. We can only hope that they continue to bring these through our area and boost our local economy in this difficult time!

We also enjoyed playing with their four-legged babies that ride along with them. Buddy became quite used to coming in getting some treats!



WESTERN NEBRASKA TOURISM COALITION MEETING

The Western Nebraska Tourism Coalition meeting in March was hosted in Kimball. The Kimball Public Library allowed us to use the multicultural room for the meeting and we all enjoyed donuts from Kimball Bakery/Merrycakes. Lunch was catered by Karen's Kitchen and she served us delicious pulled pork and chicken salad on croissants.

In the meeting, COVID-19 was discussed at length and the effect it will have on tourism around the world. It is a definite worry that our normally very busy summer season will be much slower if the virus is still wreaking havoc on travel. Yearly we see a high number of travelers from around the world, as well as across the United States. If there are still any travel bans in place or if people are still just nervous to travel, our summer season may suffer greatly. Everyone in WNTC is working proactively to flatten the curve, even though it means missing out on much needed revenue in our small towns.



NEBRASKA 2020 PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Nebraska Passport Program has released the passport stops for 2020. We are happy to announce that Kimball Bakery/Merrycakes made the list!! If you haven't been to the bakery, you can visit them at 124 S Chestnut in Kimball. You can also check them out on Facebook to see the yummy desserts they are making and also see what exciting changes have been made since Mary Sue bought the Bakery.

The Visitor Center has ordered some of the passport books for visitors, but you can also order one at <http://nebraskapassport.com/passport-details/requestyourpassport/>. The Passport Program will run from May 23, 2020 to October 31, 2020. There are 70 stops that are split up into the following categories: Unexpectables, Big Bites, Fancy Plants, Art Cetera, Anything That Rolls, Little Bites, More to Explore, Brew-Haha, Root Routes, and Sip & Shop.

RECENT STOPS AROUND THE STATE & SURROUNDING AREA

The Kimball County Tourism Director, Jessica Rocha, has been able to visit some of the area attractions this past month. Here are photos from a few of them!



Sandhills Cranes visited fields near Lake Minatare close to Scottsbluff, Nebraska



Geese, Meadowlarks (a sure sign of spring!!!), and Great Blue Herons were abundant this past month

PRE-FAM TOUR

March was supposed to bring in a large group of bus tour operators into western Nebraska. Unfortunately, COVID-19 and the weather caused this tour to be cancelled. We had been excited to 'FAMiliarize' these operators with some of what our area has to offer, including a tour of the missile silo home, seeing a short grass prairie presentation, and touring Rocky Hollow Buffalo ranch.

The Nebraska Tourism Commission Group Tour Coordinator worked very hard on getting this tour, along with many others throughout the state for this spring, and was sad to have to cancel them with current concerns about the novel coronavirus. He is hoping to continue perfecting the tours for next year.

EASTER EGG HUNT IN KIMBALL COUNTY



We know that everyone is having to find a new 'normal' and that can be really difficult, especially on holidays. To help with this, the Visitor Center set up an event where people can still go hunting for Easter eggs!

We are asking people to put a large decorated Easter egg in their front window or on their door so that people in the community can walk or drive around and find eggs. People can take pictures of all the eggs they have collected and share them on Facebook to see who has found the most eggs. Help us out and create your own egg so people have more to find!



#KimballCountyEasterEggHunt2020

There are many other Facebook groups with similar ideas, such as Bear Hunts (or Dinosaur Hunts!) and A World of Hearts. Check them all out to see how you can be a part of helping people through this pandemic!

PAINTING CLASSES & CHALK N CHAT CLASS

We are hopeful that things will start to get back to normal in April and we can resume our art classes at the Visitor Center. Stay updated on Facebook by checking our upcoming events!

WE LOVE OUR VISITORS!

We always enjoy seeing our repeat visitors who rely on us during their travels. We are having a hard time during our closure for COVID-19 not being able to see our regulars. Thank you to everyone who makes an effort to stop in to see us and of course to all of the visitors just passing through!



UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

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

- 1st-12th – Kimball County – Easter Egg Hunt around Kimball County
- 1st – Zoom Meeting – Live Butterfly Lessons with Nebraska Extension and Angela Abts
- 2nd – Anywhere – Martin Gilmore Livestream Concert from Home
- 3rd – Mitchell, NE – MES PET Penny Carnival at the Scotts Bluff County Fairgrounds
- 4th – Scottsbluff, NE – Curbside Coffee & Cruise Saturdays at Cappuccino & Company
- 5th-12th – Gering/Scottsbluff, NE – Car Ride Egg Hunt around Scottsbluff & Gering
- 8th – Zoom Meeting – Live Butterfly Lessons with Nebraska Extension and Angela Abts
- 11th – Sidney, NE – Night of Tomfoolery with Way Out West Community Theatre
- 11th – Scottsbluff, NE – Curbside Coffee & Cruise Saturdays at Cappuccino & Company
- 15th – Zoom Meeting – Live Butterfly Lessons with Nebraska Extension and Angela Abts
- 17th – Gering, NE – Bandana Benefit at the Gering Civic Center
- 18th – Scottsbluff, NE – Margarita Crawl at 16th Empire in Scottsbluff
- 18th – Gering, NE – Spring Up the Bluff at the Scotts Bluff National Monument
- 22nd – Scottsbluff, NE – Earth Day's 50th Birthday Open House – North Platte NRD
- 22nd – Zoom Meeting – Live Butterfly Lessons with Nebraska Extension and Angela Abts
- 24th-25th – Kimball, NE – Chairs for Chairity at the Kimball Public Library
- 25th – Mitchell, NE – German Food Night at the Market – Marketplace & Company
- 29th – Zoom Meeting – Live Butterfly Lessons with Nebraska Extension and Angela Abts
- 30th – Scottsbluff, NE – Community Connections Meet & Greet at WNAC

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

- 15th-16th – Gering, NE – How the West was Photographed at the Scotts Bluff Nat. Monument
- 16th – Gering, NE – Centennial & VC Grand Re-Opening - Scotts Bluff National Monument
- 23rd – Bridgeport, NE – 2020 Spring Market (Heirloom Market)

KIMBALL COUNTY VISITOR CENTER GIFT SHOP:



Don't forget to stop by the Visitor Center gift shop to find that perfect gift or Nebraska souvenir!

We keep updating our gift shop as well! Come check out some of our new items as well as our favorite souvenirs and continue coming back often to see more Nebraska made products by local and area vendors!

We are also proudly serving UNL Dairy Store Ice Cream! We currently are serving Chocolate, Vanilla, Butter Brickle, and Cookies & Cream flavors.

Please remember to be vigilant of social distancing and washing your hands constantly!! We all want to be able to get back to our normal lives as soon as possible, and the more we can stay home and flatten the curve, the faster we can be ourselves once again.



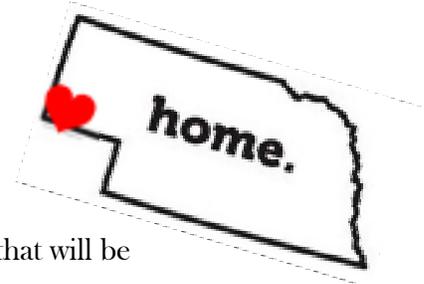
Ways my family and I have been having fun but keeping our distance from crowds...

We also want to thank all the many workers who are keeping the country running through this pandemic. Here is to the truckers who are delivering all the necessities across the nation.

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## **Make your mark on Kimball!**

*Show your support by  
making a donation to the  
Kimball County Visitor Center.*



Your name will appear on your own, individual wooden Nebraska plaque that will be placed prominently on a wall in the Visitor Center.

Your donation will go towards keeping the Visitor Center open and assist the staff in being able to promote Kimball County, the Panhandle, and the entire state of Nebraska to travelers from across the world.

We know how important Kimball County is and we want to be able to continue welcoming people to our community.

Please consider a donation to the Kimball County Visitor Center to help keep tourism alive!

*Minimum donations of \$50 to receive a Nebraska plaque inscribed with your name/business.*

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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