

Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 15

Photos by Jessica Rocha

AMERICORPS IN KIMBALL COUNTY!

We are so excited to announce that AmeriCorps NCCC Maple 50 Team has begun work in Kimball County! The team arrived from their Iowa campus on July 30th and will work through September 11th with us. They will work with the South Platte Natural Resources District at Oliver Reservoir, the Visitor Center, the Community Walking Trail, and the Plains Historical Society.

Their first couple of days included orientation to the community and the groups they will be working with. They were also able to attend the Kimball Public Library's Open House for the new Makerspace items and Chair-ity Event on Thursday. Friday included prepping a flower bed and planting iris. Le Roy Meininger, who hybridizes iris, was able to tell the team about how he does the hybridizing as well as a little history and information on the flowers themselves. Le Roy, along with John Faden and Jo Wells, sponsored this project and donated the iris. Sharon Johnson with the local Iris Society also came out to the Visitor Center to help with the planting.



AmeriCorps is a program with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). AmeriCorps engages thousands of Americans each year in intensive service to meet community needs in education, the environment, disaster services, and other areas. AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), one branch of AmeriCorps, is a full-time residential program open to U.S. citizens, nationals, and lawful permanent residents between the ages of 18 and 24, with no upper age limit for Team Leaders. AmeriCorps NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership development and team building. Because Members are trained in

disaster services and can be assigned to new duties on short notice, they are particularly well-suited to meet the nation's disaster service needs.

During their service, Members receive lodging, meals, uniforms, health benefits, child care benefits, loan forbearance, and a modest living allowance. All Members receive training in leadership, team building, disaster services, and civic engagement; a small group of Members may also receive wildland firefighting training, and all Team Leaders will receive CPR/First Aid certification.

AmeriCorps NCCC Members work in teams of approximately 10 Members on projects related to: natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. These AmeriCorps NCCC teams complete projects that typically last from six to 12 weeks, infusing essential human resources and serving people in every state. Approximately 85 percent of projects require teams to live and serve in communities away from the AmeriCorps NCCC campus. AmeriCorps NCCC's flexible program structure allows both the opportunity to partner with non-profit or government organizations, and the ability to create strategic collaborations with other national service programs and federal agencies to magnify the impact on communities served.

Their work in Kimball County will help to bring in more tourists, and thus revenue for our community. They will assist by making the Visitor Center a destination location, not just a restroom stop; by prepping the museum to house the "Crossroads of Rural America" Smithsonian Institute exhibit, in which Kimball will be the first town in Nebraska to display this exhibit; by putting a 'new face' on the restrooms and shelter houses, installing a drip system on young trees, and prepping for next year's work to keep Oliver Reservoir the attraction it has become; and by getting rid of invasive thistle and placing benches on concrete pads round the Community Walking Trail in Kimball. The work the team will do will also increase the pride in our community for our residents.

For more information on how to become an AmeriCorps NCCC member, visit <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ Americorps>. **Accepting applications to serve in NCCC at <http://bit.ly/Apply-for-NCCC>.**



WESTERN NEBRASKA BEAUTY

We are so fortunate to live where we do in the Nebraska Panhandle. The open spaces we have become accustomed to, have seen an increase in visitors as everyone else is realizing the value of fresh air and being in less populated areas as well. But you can definitely still find places to be alone to enjoy nature. This past month has been full of natural beauty, including the Neowise Comet, the stars and planets, sunsets, wildflowers, and a variety of wildlife.

CHAIR-ITY FUNDRAISER

Kimball Public Library did a fantastic job making a creative fundraiser for their new Makerspace items, including an incredible laser cutter machine. A large number of people in the community donated chairs that others in the community then decorated. The outcome was just under fifty 're-made' chairs, benches, and other things made with the pieces of chairs.

The fundraiser included a silent auction throughout the last half of July, then a final round on the 30th during the Open House to determine the winners. Along with the auction and a book sale, there were demonstrations on how the laser cutter, the 3D printer, and the heat press work.

Our community is very fortunate to have such an amazing library. Jan Sears, former library director, who worked hard to keep the library an exciting place to be, was honored for her nearly ten years of work at the Open House by having the multicultural room named for her. We are looking forward to see what Amber Sweetland, the new library director, has in store for the Kimball Public Library.

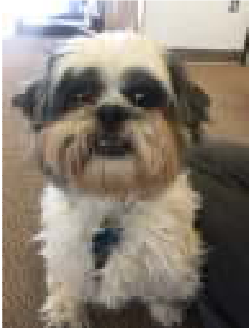


WONDERFUL VISITORS!

Some of our visitors this past month included many furry friends, a couple who assist stranded motorists with mechanic work on their vehicles (all donation based), and many friends and families who decided to get out of the house and see some of our beautiful country, including grandparents with grandsons from Florida going white water rafting in Colorado!

We continue to see many travelers going to National Parks and other open spaces to get away from the craziness that is our current normal. We have also had quite a few people venturing out to the High Point of Nebraska! They have been excited to receive their very own certificate for 'climbing' to the top of Kimball County. If you haven't received your certificate yet, go check out Panorama Point and come to the Visitor Center to get one for your memories!

We appreciate all of our regulars who have begun to come back through as well. It is nice to see some familiar faces along with new friends we make every day!



CHIMNEY ROCK MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER

The Museum and Visitor Center at Chimney Rock has reopened as of August 1st after being closed since late 2019 for remodeling and renovations. They have a variety of new displays as well as some updated favorites. According to History Nebraska, "visitors to the museum will see many new amenities and features, including new exhibits, a newly expanded education room for school programs, new theater space, improved gift shop, and the addition of new space to act as a storm shelter".

I was able to get a sneak peek before the re-opening, and it was amazing! There are so many things to interact with, to read, and to view. And of course the view of Chimney Rock out of the floor-to-ceiling windows facing the landmark are still spectacular.



RECENT PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



I enjoyed a couple quick trips to Scotts Bluff National Monument, Courthouse and Jail Rocks, Chimney Rock, and of course we spent some more time at our local Oliver Reservoir.

THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:

Friends of the
GOODHAND Theatre
Presents

SUMMER MOVIES IN THE PARK

Bring Your Blankets and Chairs and Enjoy The Movie !!!

FREE ADMISSION Refreskment will be available for sale. Movie Begins when it gets dark. Donations will Be Accepted.

Goodhand Gun Raffle Drawing Before The Movie Starts!

COMING SOON !!!!

August 7

Onward
Rated PG
Movie Sponsored by
Kimball Bridge Club
Located at Gato Park by the rebound pool

For more information contact us at friendsofthegoodhand@gmail.com or on

GOODHAND Theatre

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

We Bought A Zoo **PG**

Showing at
7 PM
August 21 & 22

Sunday Matinee
August 23
at 2 PM

Free Admission!

Movie Sponsored By Bonnie Stendahl

Benjamin (Matt Damon) has lost his wife. In a bid to start his life over, he purchases a large house that has a zoo. This is welcome news for his daughter, but his son is not happy about it. The zoo is in need of restoration and Benjamin sets about the work with the head keeper, Kelly, (Scarlett Johansson) and the rest of the zoo staff. But, the zoo soon runs into financial trouble. The staff must get the zoo back to its former glory, pass a zoo inspection, and get it back open to the public.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

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

- 1st – Kimball, NE – Kimball Hospital Foundation Golf Classic
- 1st – Chimney Rock – Chimney Rock National Historic Site Museum Reopening
- 1st – Pine Bluffs, WY – Pine Bluffs Trail Days
- 1st-2nd – Harrison, NE – Sioux County Fair & Rodeo
- 2nd – Scottsbluff, NE – “Footloose” at the SkyView Drive-In Theater
- 4th – Morrill, NE – Morrill Farmer’s Market
- 7th – Kimball, NE – Summer Movie in Gotte Park – “Onward”
- 8th – Gering, NE – 1st Annual Bark in the Park at Oregon Trail Park Stadium
- 8th – Scottsbluff, NE – Summer Farmer’s Market on 18th Street
- 7th – Hemingford, NE – Box Butte County Fair Truck & Tractor Pull
- 12th-15th – Scotts Bluff County – Old West Balloon Fest & Balloon Championships
- 14th-15th – Kimball, NE – Kimball Community Blood Screenings at Kimball Health Services
- 15th – Scottsbluff, NE – Saving Abel Live at Shots Bar & Grill
- 15th – Bridgeport, NE – Prairie Winds Community Center 5K Walk/Run Series
- 21st-22nd – Gering, NE – 99th Annual Oregon Trail Days

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

- 4th-7th – Crawford, NE – Crawford Rock Swap
- 6th – Potter, NE – PNCC Potter 120 Off Road Race
- 12th – Scottsbluff, NE – 2020 Annual Fly-In and Airport Appreciation Days
- 5th – Pine Bluffs, WY – 2nd Annual Corgi Derby with Pine Bluffs Distilling
- 25th-27th – Kimball, NE – 94th Annual Farmer’s Day Weekend
- 26th – Scottsbluff, NE – Margarita Crawl Scottsbluff
- 26th – Scottsbluff, NE – Guadalupe Boxing Superior Showdown at the Guadalupe Center

The Sage Brush Lounge, located at 615 E 3rd St in Kimball is now open! Their current hours are 5-10 pm Monday through Saturday. They are also gracious enough to be hosting a “Makeup Prom Night” for Kimball’s 2019-2020 Freshman-Senior classes on August 7th. If you have an event and need a venue, you can contact The Sage Brush at 308-230-2133.

**Beer & Loathing also just reopened after a few months of renovations!
Check them out at 206 S Chestnut St in Kimball.**

Our gift shop is open and full of amazing locally-made items for that perfect gift for the hard to shop for person!! We also have great Nebraska souvenirs!

We are still welcoming donations to Kimball Area Tourism to assist in keeping our Visitor Center open. Please contact Jessica for more information on how to donate.

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