

# Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 17

Photos by Jessica Rocha

## MAPLE 50 MADE AN IMPACT ON KIMBALL COUNTY!

As you have heard, Kimball County was honored to have the Maple 50 AmeriCorps NCCC team work for six weeks improving vital components of the community.

The Maple 50 team is comprised of young adults from all around the United States as well as one member from Jamaica and another from Lithuania. Their campus is located in Vinton, Iowa and they serve in surrounding states. They began their journey to Kimball the end of July and worked through the middle of September. The team put in 2,228 hours of service into working with three sponsors on a variety of projects.



COVID delays kept the team from coming to Kimball sooner, but they hit the ground running when they arrived. Their work began at Oliver Reservoir, where they assisted Galen Wittrock from the South Platte Natural Resources District with the scraping and repainting of 6 restrooms, 2 shelter houses, and 41 picnic tables, replacing 6 window screens in 8 restrooms, demolishing an unusable restroom, filling between 30 to 50 potholes with 5 tons of crushed concrete, setting a fishing pier into the water, creating 48 tree surrounds with pallets, picking up 350 pounds of trash and ashes from fire pits, removing 300 pounds of invasive and dead trees and weeds, installing a 1,900-foot drip system on 200 young trees, and removing another 20 pounds of trash from around the reservoir.



Oliver Reservoir has seen a huge increase in campers this year due to COVID, and now that people have been able to see what an oasis it is, numbers should stay at elevated levels in the years to come. The work Maple 50 did at Oliver will help the SPNRD focus on other items now that these projects have been completed. It will also help Kimball County gain visitor interest by having such a well-cared for location for people to spend quality time with family and friends.

Once they finished their time at Oliver, the team began working at the Kimball County Visitor Center. The Maple 50 team built 2 large brochure storage racks to hold excess brochures that double as office walls, prepped 9 4x8-foot plywood sheets for a large billboard that will be placed on the western edge of the property, pulled weeds, planted a 3x30-foot hybridized iris garden, refinished 2 picnic tables with wood-burned designs, created 19 old west storefronts used to advertise local businesses, and hand-painted 4 outer walls of the building – which include 3 amazing murals.



The work that was completed at the Visitor Center will benefit the entire community, as well as the Panhandle and the rest of the state. By making the property more visible with the colorful murals and the storefronts, travelers will be more inclined to stop at the Visitor Center. Once they pull into the parking lot, they are much more likely to come in to get more information on Kimball businesses as well as things to see and do across the area and state. The staff at the Visitor Center are dedicated to telling visitors about fun stops and other routes to get to where people are going.

Next, the team assisted Jean Gilbert-Cole and others at the Kimball Community Walking Trail on the south end of Kimball. Time was spent putting 2,300 pounds of gravel at the entrance to the dog park, pulling weeds, taking out dead trees, removing 1,038 pounds of trash, and mixing and pouring 26 60-pound bags for concrete pads to place memorial benches along the trail.

This work helps the community by showing that the Kimball Area Foundation Fund group, along with their board and volunteers, are dedicated to keeping a great place for people to be able to get exercise and fresh air and also to have a nice park for dogs to play. This is a fantastic asset for the community to help draw in potential new residents and keep the current residents wanting to stay.

Finally, the team worked at the old Kimball High School and Fraternal Hall for the Plains Historical Society and Museum. Tim Nolting and other board members helped the AmeriCorps team members with removing 3,058 pounds of trash, along with deep cleaning rooms to prep for new displays. The team worked on 20,381 square feet of classrooms and hallways at the old Kimball High School. They swept and mopped multiple times to remove all the dust and debris that collected since 2012, when the building was last deep-cleaned. In the Fraternal Hall, the team cleaned the auditorium and 15 display case windows to prep it for being open to the public this fall.



The work that the group did for the museum will assist the Plains Historical Society in being ready for next year's Smithsonian Exhibit "Crossroads of Rural America". Kimball will be the first location in Nebraska that will display this exhibit, so the work prepping for it was immeasurably helpful.

While the team was in Kimball County, they visited the High Point of Nebraska, Chimney Rock and the newly renovated museum and visitor center there, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Carhenge, Toadstool Geological Park, and Agate Fossil Beds. Even though the majority of the time spent was happy, tragedy struck shortly before the team finished their work in Kimball County. One of the team members, Andre, passed



away due to a rapidly progressing medical condition. His time in this community will never be forgotten. Thanks to Galen, the team was able to plant a tree in Andre's memory at Oliver Reservoir. This is a great tribute to the young life that was taken too soon.



Words cannot express how thankful the community is for the work that the AmeriCorps NCCC Maple 50 team did while in western Nebraska. Their legacy will live on here for many years to come. Thank you Maple 50!!

The team stated that through these projects, they learned about the importance of investing in small communities and how a few seemingly small tasks will make a long-lasting impact in the Kimball community. Members will be able to utilize the skills learned to support endeavors in museum curation or management, natural resource district upkeep, or in economic development. They also learned tool safety and knowledge that can assist them within other personal or professional fields.

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>.

## **KIMBALL FARMER'S DAY**

Farmer's Day did look different this year, but the community still enjoyed a lot of fun events.

Friday included a quilt show and book sale at the Kimball Public Library, bike races, cruise night, the movie "Doolittle" at the Goodhand Theatre, and Victory Underground Band at Chute #7. Saturday began with a Fun Run, and even despite the smoke in the air, a good number of people competed. Throughout the day, there was a "Parts Run" scavenger hunt, a 'reverse parade', the book sale and quilt show, a wing feed, horseshoe tournament, Plains Historical Society gun raffle, cornhole tournament demolition derby, glow disc frisbee tournament, and Victory Underground Band again at Chute #7.



There was also a Baby Photo Contest and Cutest Pet Contest. All the entries were adorable!! You can check them out on Facebook at Kimball Farmer's Day and Farmers Day Cutest Pet Contest.

Thank you to the Kimball Farmer's Day Committee and all the volunteers and community members who made all of this possible!



## WONDERFUL VISITORS!

We have had another great month of amazing people come through our doors!

One such visitor brought a special painted rock to leave here in Nebraska. TEAM 4 Travis was created by Allison D'Ambrosio Bones for her son, Travis, who died at just four years old from a rare undiagnosed genetic birth defect called Isolated Congenital Asplenia. Travis was born without a spleen, which compromised his immune system. Allison has been traveling to spread the word about this rare condition to make others aware of it. To check out more about Asplenia, visit [team4travis.org](http://team4travis.org).

## ADVERTISING AT THE VISITOR CENTER

We are excited to show off a new window screen at the Visitor Center! Discover Northwest Nebraska is now one of our advertisers on the east-facing wall of windows.

If you haven't been to Northwest Nebraska, I highly recommend it!! Not only is my hometown of Rushville located there, one of my very favorite places, Toadstool Geological Park, is there. Along with that, Chadron, Chadron State Park, Crawford, Fort Robinson, and more are located in the region. There are amazing views and plenty of things to keep you busy. Plan a trip to today at [www.discoverNWNebraska.com](http://www.discoverNWNebraska.com).



## NEW BUSINESSES IN KIMBALL

Kimball has gained new and upgraded businesses this past month!

The Sage Brush Restaurant opened on September 21<sup>st</sup> and has been a wonderful addition to our dining establishments. The restaurant is currently open Monday – Thursday 5-9 pm and Friday – Saturday 5-10 pm. The Lounge at The Sage Brush is open Monday – Thursday 5-10 pm and Friday – Saturday 5-11 pm. You can check out their menu on Facebook or visit them in person at 615 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Kimball.

The previous Longhorn Restaurant building has been recently renovated and now houses Kimball Nutrition. They are open Monday – Friday 7 am – 3 pm and Saturday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. They offer a variety of shakes and teas. You can find out more about them on Facebook or stop in at 107 S Chestnut St, Kimball.

In the same building as Kimball Nutrition, the new Kimball Fitness Center will be opening soon. You can check out more about them at [www.kimballfitnesscenter.com](http://www.kimballfitnesscenter.com). They will be located at 105 S Chestnut St, Kimball.

The Kimball County Transit Service had an open house and ribbon cutting recently for their new building, which is located on the northeast corner of Highway 30 and Chestnut Street here in Kimball (233 S Chestnut St, Kimball). The building looks amazing and houses not only all the transit vehicles, but also has storage, offices, a reception area, and a large meeting and training room. It has assisted in beautifying our main intersection downtown immensely! You can check them out on Facebook or at [rideKCTS.com](http://rideKCTS.com).

Our Kimball Economic Developer has also updated the business listings for Kimball and has a pdf version online at <https://www.kimballne.org/departments/economic-development>, then click on the “High Point of Nebraska Guidebook” button.

## RECENT PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



I enjoyed driving some backroads for fall color, as well as finding leaves changing at Oliver Reservoir, and more smoky sunsets.



More photos from the Reverse Parade at the Farmer's Day celebration.



More photos of AmeriCorps NCCC Maple 50 Team. These were taken on our adventure to Carhenge, Toadstool Geological Park, and Agate Fossil Beds.

THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:

**Goodhand Theatre**

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

**SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT** **PG**

Showing at 7 PM  
October 2 & 3

Sunday Matinee  
at 2 PM  
October 4

**FREE ADMISSION**

Movie Sponsored by Jocko Express Inc.  
In Memory of Gerald Schildhauer

Boatie and Cleon are two truck-driving southerners who accept a dare from big-shots Big and Little Kees to pick up a truckload of beer from Texas and return it to them within a specified amount of time. Picking it up is simple enough, but as they are leaving Texas, Bandit unwittingly picks up Carrie, a hitherkilling hold-to-be who just left her groos, Junior, at the altar. Junior, however, is the son of Sheriff Buford T. Justice. When Buford and Junior discover what has happened, they go on a "high-speed pursuit" across the Southeast to catch the bandit.

**Goodhand Theatre**

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

**Trolls World Tour** **PG**

Showing at 7 PM  
October 16 & 17

Sunday Matinee  
at 2 PM  
October 18

**Free Admission!**

**MOVIE SPONSORED BY BOB & DAWN HINTON**

Poppy and Branch discover that they are but one of six different Troll tribes scattered over six different lands devoted to six different kinds of music: Funk, Country, Techno, Classical, Pop and Rock. Their world is about to get a lot bigger and a whole lot louder. A member of hard-rock royalty, Queen Barb, aided by her father King Thrash, wants to destroy all other kinds of music to let rock reign supreme. With the fate of the world at stake, Poppy and Branch, along with their friends, set out to visit all the other lands to unify the Trolls in harmony against Barb, who's looking to upstage them all.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Saving Abel & Wade B at Shots Bar & Grill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Chadron, NE – Harvest Moon Fall Festival at the Dawes County Fairgrounds
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – North Platte, NE – Dusty's Pumpkin Fest at Buffalo Bill State Historical Park
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Fall Festival and Craft Fair at Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Spooktacular 2020 at the Riverside Discovery Center (more dates are available for this event – please check them out on Facebook to see the times & dates)
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Bayard, NE – The Heirloom Market Fall Market
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Night Corn Maze at the Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Bushnell, NE – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser at Bushnell Fire Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Pine Bluffs, WY – Pine Bluffs Fall Festival
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Pets at the Patch at Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Farewell Angelia at Drive-In Concert at the SkyView
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Night Corn Maze at the Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Rushville, NE – Spook Fest on Main Street
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Sidney, NE – Haunted House at the Sidney Elk's Lodge
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Kimball, NE – Boo Bash at The Sage Brush
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Night Corn Maze at the Adams Family Pumpkin Patch
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Spooktacular 2020 at the Riverside Discovery Center

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

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Bridgeport, NE – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Open House at the Tarnished Halo
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Christmas Wreath Make & Take Class at the Kimball Public Library

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!

Some new items are hand-poured candles and doggie bandanas!



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## FALL PHOTO CONTEST

**Kimball County Visitor Center is hosting a Fall Photo Contest that will run from October 1-31<sup>st</sup>! We will have two categories: one open to anyone who would like to submit a photo of themselves or their family or friends with our new murals, storefronts, or other photo op areas, and one open to the business owners/families who are advertising on the storefronts.**

**The Kimball County Visitors Committee will choose the winners. The winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to be spent at the Visitor Center Gift Shop!! You can post your photos on Facebook or Instagram with #KCVCFallphotocontest, text them to me at 308-241-0573, or email them to me at [visit@kimballcountyne.us](mailto:visit@kimballcountyne.us). Have fun!!**

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*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.*

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**Please check out our Facebook page to see more events. [www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter](http://www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter)**

**You can also look at our website to get more information about Kimball County: [www.visitkimball.com](http://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**