

Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 9

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW



This past month I had the opportunity to work at the Nebraska Tourism booth at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. What a great experience!!! The booth they set up was spectacular – it even had a stock tank to take photos in with a backdrop of tanking down a river in the Sandhills. People attending the Stock Show really enjoyed seeing what Nebraska has to offer. I was happy to tell them about all the wonderful things Kimball County, the Panhandle, and the entire state has to keep them entertained while on vacation.

It was fun to hear stories from people about why they liked Nebraska or where they had been in Nebraska. Many people had family who had lived in our state for generations while others were just going to be travelling to or through Nebraska to visit their children who had moved to Lincoln or the Black Hills. Others had stories of working in different parts of the state and shared those experiences.

It was also heartwarming to hear that people love Nebraska because “the nicest people come from Nebraska”! I hope that everyone who travels through our great state is able to get a feel of home-grown hospitality and get a sense of why Nebraskans treat everyone they meet with respect and compassion.

WESTERN NEBRASKA TOURISM COALITION & PLATTE VALLEY ATTRACTIONS



I attended meetings at the end of January in Bridgeport and at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center south of Gering. I always love the drive to Bridgeport on Highway 88. You normally don't have to deal with much traffic and you get to see cattle, open fields, pastures, and of course, Courthouse and Jail Rock. It was a gorgeous sunshiny morning with some thick frost on the trees and grass as I came into Bridgeport.

We had our Western Nebraska Tourism Coalition meeting at the Prairie Winds Community Center in Bridgeport. We were updated on things happening with WNTC and then enjoyed a

delightful meal prepared by BurgerWerx! I was amazed at how wonderful the community center was. The room we had our meeting in was one of three that creates a large ballroom area. They also have a full kitchen, a large basketball court, a beautiful fitness center upstairs, and even a track that goes all around the upper level. What a great place for everyone to be able to gather in Bridgeport!!

During the WNTC meeting, the director of the Chimney Rock Visitor Center told the group that they are still on track to have renovations completed on the visitor center by the end of May. I am excited to see all the changes they are working on!

After the WNTC meeting, I traveled along Highway 92 past Chimney Rock. The wind had come up and it was cloudy and raining and snowing all the way to Gering. Driving along that highway always makes me think of the pioneers. I realize how spoiled I am in a cushy vehicle with heat coming out of the vents compared to what they dealt with passing this same point along the Oregon Trail.



The weather cleared up a bit on my way south of Gering, but started to snow just a few pretty flakes as I came into the Wildcat Hills. The Platte Valley Attractions group met in the Ponderosa Room and enjoyed not only the view, but some pie from Double L Café and Country Store! The sun came

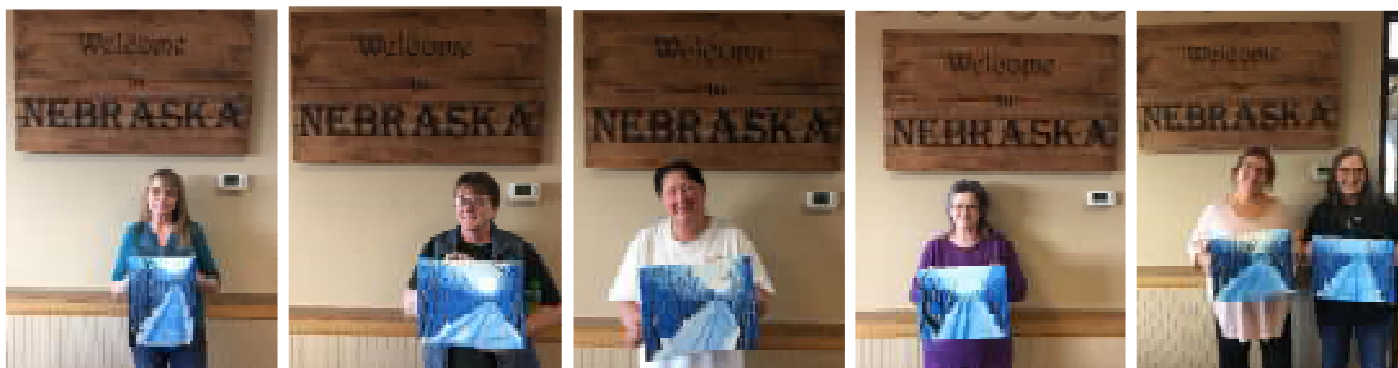
through the clouds for a brief moment and I was able to step out of the meeting to the observation deck to capture a photo. I am excited to see what the PVA group will be able to accomplish in the coming year. They began about 15 years ago and have continued to promote each other's businesses, especially during big events that are held in the area. Some of the group members include Barn Anew Bed & Breakfast, Riverside Discover Center, Legacy of the Plains Museum, Kimball Area Tourism, Double L Café and Country Store, and the Wildcat Hills Nature Center. We are also hoping to have a website set up soon!



PAINTING CLASSES & CHALK N CHAT CLASS

In January, Stacey Bolin instructed two painting classes at the Visitor Center. She started the month out with a cowboy and cactus silhouette on glass and ended with a 'Mystery Paint' which turned out to be a winter scene with a trail through a forest.





The Chalk N Chat with Lou Ann Frei was the first one of its kind here at the Visitor Center! We are hoping to continue with two painting classes as well as one or two Chalk Couture classes each month.



REAL WESTERN WINGS

If you haven't already heard, there is a new location to bird hunt south of Kimball. Real Western Wings offers ringneck pheasant, sharptail grouse, chukars, and Hungarian partridges.

I was able to tag along with a Pheasants Forever Youth hunt in January. It was interesting to see the bird pens, how they gather the birds, and also how the dogs are able to track the birds in the pasture.



If you are intersted in hunts or training your dog for hunting, contact Dale Critchfield at dale@realwesternhunting.com.

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!



A couple birds at Real Western Wings – they did pretty well with their modeling!



More photos from the National Western Stock Show



A few more shots from the drive to Bridgeport

WE LOVE OUR VISITORS!

We had trucks with wind turbine blades stop multiple times this past month. It is amazing to see them back into our parking lot from Highway 71. One of trucks with the blade was about 244 feet long!!!! And we found out that there is a “steerman” who uses a remote control to steer the back wheels of the trailer carrying the blade who also drives one of the escort vehicles. Pretty incredible!



THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:

GOODHAND Theatre

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

HARRIET PG-13

Showing at 7 PM
February 7 & 8

Sunday Matinee
at 2 PM
February 9

Free Admission!

Movie Sponsored By Kimball Family Dentistry
Based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter, Harriet tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.



GOODHAND Theatre

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

FORD v FERRARI PG-13

SHOWING at 7 PM
February 21 & 22
Sunday Matinee at 2 PM
February 23

Free Admission!

Movie Sponsored By a Friend of The Goodhand
American car designer Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon) and driver Ken Miles (Christian Bale) battle corporate interference, the laws of physics and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary race car for Ford and challenge Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1966.



UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

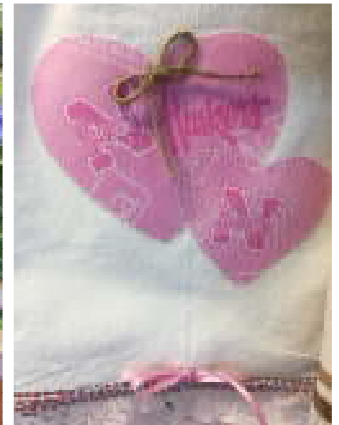
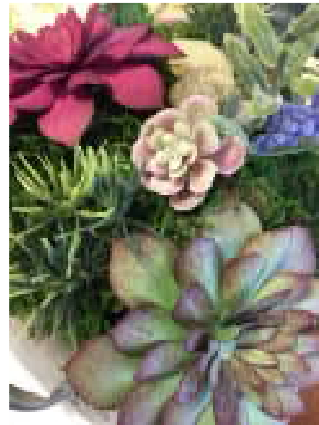
February:

- 1st – Scottsbluff, NE – Love is in the Air Vendor & Craft Expo at Monument Mall
- 1st – Scottsbluff, NE – Scottsbluff Winter Farmers Market downtown Scottsbluff
- 7th – 8th – Scottsbluff, NE – KNEB Farm & Ranch Expo at Marker Ag, Inc
- 8th – Kimball, NE – Painting Class with Stacey Bolin at the Visitor Center
- 8th – Scottsbluff, NE – Valentine's Craft Session at Craft Barn by Lazy K Sawmill
- 8th – Sterling, CO – Hog Roast & Auction at Sterling Elks Lodge #1336
- 8th-9th – Scottsbluff, NE – "Parasite" at the Midwest Theater
- 9th – Potter, NE – Creative Kickstart Watercolor Technique - Creative Chalk - Potter Fire Hall
- 11th – Scottsbluff, NE – Peking Acrobats at the Midwest Theater
- 13th – Pine Bluffs, WY – "Soaring Heart" Paint Night at Pine Bluffs Distilling
- 14th – Kimball, NE – Taylor Hernly at Beer & Loathing
- 14th – Potter, NE – Valentine's Dinner at the Potter Sundry
- 15th – Mitchell, NE – Valentines Social w/The Twin River Band - Scotts Bluff Cty Fairgrounds
- 15th – Scottsbluff, NE – Valentines Dinner "Italian Style" at Scottsbluff Elk's Lodge #1367
- 15th-16th – Scottsbluff, NE – Chef Derek Pop Up Dinner at Cappuccino and Company
- 18th – Scottsbluff, NE – Sip 'N Chalk – Creative Chalk – Scottsbluff Elks Lodge #1367
- 22nd – Kimball, NE – Painting Class with Stacey Bolin at the Visitor Center
- 22nd – Gering, NE – Winter Wildlife Tracking at Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area
- 22nd – Gering, NE – Girls Day Out Make-N-Take with CreativeChalk - Gering Civic Center
- 27th – Scottsbluff, NE – Omaha Symphony Chamber Concert at Midwest Theater
- 29th – Kimball, NE – Kimball Hospital Foundation Casino Night at the Kimball Event Center
- 29th – Bushnell, NE – Bull Sale at Par Terre Cattle
- 29th – Pine Bluffs, WY – Distillery Trivia Night at Pine Bluffs Distilling

March:

- 8th – Kimball, NE – Painting like Bob Ross at Beer & Loathing
- 8th – Potter, NE – Fun Day with Creative Chalk at the Potter Fire Hall
- 14th – Gering, NE – Hello Nebraska! At Oregon Trail Roadhouse
- 21st – Bayard, NE – Nite On The Town 2020 at the American Legion
- Sandhill Crane migration begins!! Check out brochures at the Kimball County Visitor Center!

KIMBALL COUNTY VISITOR CENTER GIFT SHOP:



Don't forget to stop by the Visitor Center gift shop to find that perfect Valentine's Day gift!

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!

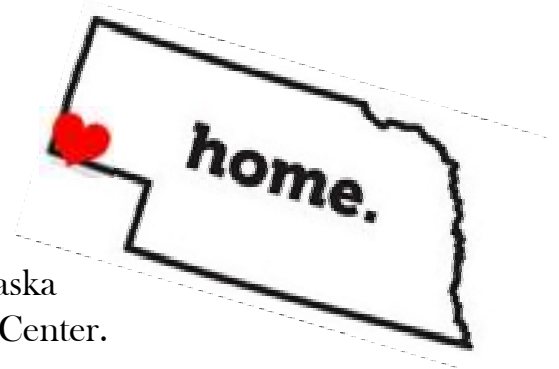
We are happy to be able to now sell books by Nebraska's State Poet Matt Mason! He has two books available for purchase in our gift shop: "The Baby That Ate Cincinnati" and "Things We Don't Know We Don't Know". Check them out!!

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

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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