

Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 33

Photos by Jessica Rocha

PLAN FOR VACATION DAY

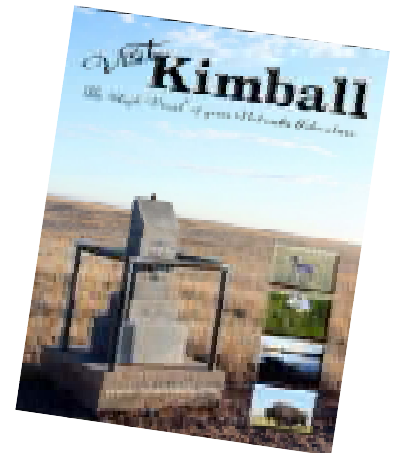
Did you plan your vacations for this year already? If not, get started now!! January 25th was Plan for Vacation Day, and we enjoyed seeing everyone across the world share plans for vacation spots. Research has shown that vacation days are not being used, which negatively affects mental health, personal relationships, and job performance. So make sure you don't get burned out in your job and plan for your vacation today! #PlanForVacation



Kimball area has a wide variety of things to see and do – so make sure to put us on the 2022 bucket list! Stop by the High Point of the state and take in the view, stand in three states at once at the Tri State Marker, hand-feed a buffalo at Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company, go hunting, fishing, or birdwatching at Oliver Reservoir, see a movie at the historic Goodhand Theatre, play a round of golf at Four Winds Golf Course, get some great home-cooked meals at restaurants in the area, visit the Plains Historical Society museum to see a stuffed mountain lion and

hand-made farm equipment replicas, drive a section of the Lincoln Highway National Scenic and Historic Byway, and more!!!

If you need some inspiration for Kimball, Western Nebraska, or the whole state, take a look at www.visitkimball.com, www.westnebraska.com, or www.visitnebraska.com. You can order visitor guides from each website as well!



SCENIC BYWAYS

Did you know that the state of Nebraska has nine scenic byways?! Stretched across the state, these scenic byways offer just that – beautiful scenery. They also offer a chance to get off the interstate and really get to know our great state.



The Lincoln Highway goes the whole length of Nebraska, which means it goes through all three communities in Kimball County, as well as traversing 13 other counties and over 40 other towns. The Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway in the United States, which began in 1913. It was designated as a National Scenic Byway through Nebraska in 2021. For more information, visit www.lincolnhighwynebraskabyway.com.

The Western Trails Scenic Byway is 144 miles and travels along the Oregon Trail. You'll get to see everything from wagon ruts at Mitchell Pass, the most documented landmark along the Oregon Trail, Chimney Rock, and Nebraska's big lake, Lake McConaughy, on this beautiful drive! For more information, visit www.westerntrailsnebyway.com.

The 385-Gold Rush Scenic Byway is 131 miles from Sidney to Chadron. At its peak, more than \$200,000 worth of gold traveled this historic route DAILY. Today, US 385 is considered one of the most scenic and historic roads in the nation.

The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway offers 272 miles of world-class natural wonders. The Sandhills have been a National Natural Landmark since 1984 and encompass about a quarter of the state of Nebraska. They are one of the largest plant-anchored dune regions in the world and are the largest sand dune formation in the Western Hemisphere. Make sure to stop by the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Visitor Center in Broken Bow to learn more. For more information on the byway, visit www.sandhillsjourney.com.

The Bridges to Buttes Scenic Byway runs 197 miles from the Wyoming border to Valentine along US Hwy 20. Along the way, stop in Rushville at the Sheridan County Historical Museum, in Gordon at the Sheridan Gallery, in Merriman at the Bowring Ranch State Historical Park, and in Valentine at Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area. Be sure to check out the Nebraska Star Party at Merritt Reservoir the end of July!

The Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway travels between South Sioux City and Valentine 231 miles. You'll go through the towns of Sparks, Springview, Niobrara, Crofton, Wynot, and Ponca on this gorgeous drive. Make sure to stop by Dryland Aquatics to float the Niobrara! You can also visit the Turtle Butte Lodge in Springview, the Ohiya Resort and Casino in Niobrara, and St James Marketplace in Wynot.

The Heritage Highway Scenic Byway is 238 miles along US 136 between Edison and Brownville. Along the way, stop to see the Red Cloud Opera House, get some wine at Superior Estates Winery, visit the Homestead National Monument of America, and spend some time at Rock Creek Station State Historical Park. For more information, visit www.heritagehighway136.com.

The Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway travels along US 75 between South Sioux City and Fort Calhoun. You can follow in the footsteps of the famous explorers through bountiful cropland and beautifully wooded bluffs. You can be a part of Native American culture as well as seeing Omaha, Nebraska's largest city. While in Omaha, be sure to take a couple days to take in all that the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium have to offer.

Finally, Loup Rivers Scenic Byway goes 150 miles between Dunning and Wood River. You can spend time taking in the sights along the Calamus River as well as finding beautiful red barns, silos, and farmland. Be sure to stop in Burwell at the Calamus Reservoir State Recreation Area, in Elyria at Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park, Valley County Museum in Ord, and Happy Jack Peak and Chalk Mine in Scotia.

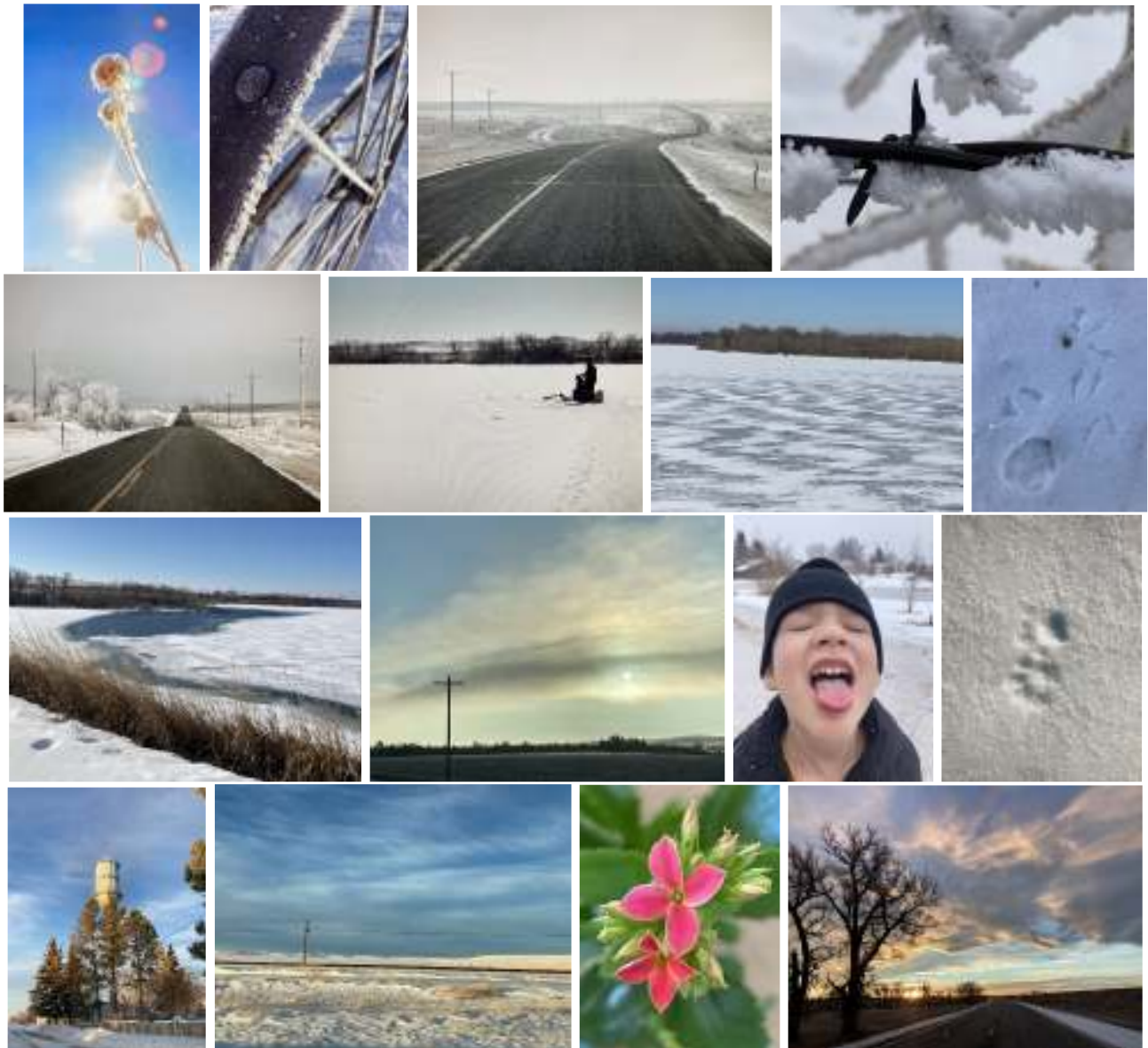
For a full list of the scenic byways, along with more information on what to see and do along each one, visit www.visitnebraska.com.

WONDERFUL VISITORS!

We had a great family come in last week to the Visitor Center. Most all of the travelers that come through comment that they didn't realize what they were going to find when they walked through our doors, but this family gave so many compliments on our facility I just couldn't stop saying "Thank you!" They were driving from Utah to Chicago and said of all the visitor centers they have ever stopped in that ours was the best they have ever seen. It really makes our days that much brighter when we can assist travelers and surprise them with a great stop!

We owe a lot to our staff and gift shop vendors for making the Visitor Center such a wonderful place! And none of it would be here if it weren't for the people who take time to stop, so THANK YOU to everyone who has walked through our doors!!!

PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



We were happy to get some snow this past month, and my son enjoyed catching snowflakes on his tongue! Sunsets were still brilliant and there were a few days of heavy frost that gave another dimension to everything in sight. Fisherman have been taking advantage of the colder weather with some ice fishing, cats and birds have also been playing in the snow, and on a trip to the Tri State Marker, the fog rolled in and gave me a view I wasn't expecting that sunny day when I left Kimball! And we have plants blooming at the Visitor Center!!

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

February:

- 1st – Scottsbluff, NE – Riverside Discovery Center Top Secret Adventure Packs available
- 1st & 3rd – Scottsbluff, NE – Destination Creation Course at WNCC Harms Center
- 2nd & 3rd – North Platte, NE – Buffalo Bill Farm & Ranch Expo
- 4th-6th – Kimball, NE – “Sing 2” at the Goodhand Theatre
- 5th – Gering, NE – Winter Farmer’s Market at Legacy of the Plains
- 5th – Bayard, NE – Macrame Heart Wall Hanger Workshop at Mercantile Co
- 5th – Mitchell, NE – Ranchers Helping Ranchers Benefit Goat Roping at SB Cty Fairgrounds
- 6th – Kimball, NE – 5th Annual Puzzle Contest at Kimball County Transit Building
- 9th – Kimball, NE – “Valentine Wild Flowers” Paint Class at the Visitor Center
- 13th & 14th – Scottsbluff, NE – Paradigm Valentine’s Pop-Up Dinner at Papa Moon
- 14th – Valentine’s Day
- 16th – Kimball, NE – Chamber Interest Meeting at Kimball County Transit Building
- 18th-20th – Kimball, NE – “American Underdog” at the Goodhand Theatre
- 21st – Kimball, NE – St. Patrick’s Day Wreath Make & Take at Karen’s Kitchen
- 21st – Presidents’ Day
- 26th – Bushnell, NE – Par Terre Cattle Age Advantaged SimAngus Bull Sale

March:

- 17th – Chadron, NE – Sneaky Leprechaun 5k Run/Walk
- 17th – St. Patrick’s Day
- 19th – Crawford, NE – Post Playhouse Annual Raffle at Fort Rob Buffalo Soldier’s Barracks



“Valentine Wild Flowers” Paint Class

Event by Painting On The Prairie with Stacey Bolin

Location: Kimball County Visitor Center, 204 S Kimball Blvd, Kimball, NE 69145

Time: 12 pm – 3 pm

Price: \$35 & includes everything

THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:

GOODHAND Theatre

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

SING 2 

Showing at 7 PM
February 4 & 5
Sunday Matinee
at 2 PM
February 6

Admission
Adult (12-older) \$3.00
Child (2-11) \$2.00
Children under 2 Free


**Movie Sponsored by
Jennifer Griebel of High Plains Health**

On Independence Day weekend 2021, Buster, Meena, Rosita, Gunter, Johnny and Ash prepare for a bigger stage and a brighter spotlight as they leave the Moon Theater for the big city in SING 2.



GOODHAND Theatre

Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:

American Underdog 

Showing at 7 PM
February 18 & 19
Sunday Matinee
at 2 PM
February 20

Admission
Adult (12-older) \$3.00
Child (2-11) \$2.00
Children under 2 Free

**MOVIE SPONSORED BY
KIMBALL FAMILY DENTISTRY**

The drama chronicles the incredible true story of Kurt Warner, who went from stocking shelves at a supermarket to become a two time NFL MVP, Super Bowl MVP and Hall of Fame quarterback.



2021 visitor numbers were great, especially compared to 2020! We had nearly 10,000 people in 2021, compared to about 4,500 in 2020. We have had 98,575 people come through our doors since we opened in July 2013. We are looking forward to welcoming our 100,000th visitor this year!!!

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 #visitkimball