

# Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 35

Photos by Jessica Rocha

## FAM TOUR

The end of March brought the Select Traveler FAM (familiarization) Tour to Western Nebraska. Nebraska Tourism Commission works with tour operators and tour group leaders throughout the year and offers tours across Nebraska for them to explore what each area of Nebraska has to offer.

We enjoyed having the group of about 30 come to Kimball as their first and last stops in the area. Shaun Evertson, with EJE Ranch, presented on the short grass prairie and explained to the group about different things he does on the ranch. His tours include short grass prairie presentations, wildflower walks, and ground nesting bird talks. The group then meandered through more of Western Nebraska before coming back to the Kimball area. I met them again at Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company, just north of Kimball into Banner County. There, the group chatted with Rick Forepaugh, owner of the buffalo ranch, and were able to get an up close and personal view of the herd. Natasha, a bottle fed buffalo that Rick and Lindsay raised on the ranch, even came up to see if anyone had some alfalfa pellets to hand out.



It was a great experience for everyone involved and we hope to see multiple group tours come back because of this FAM Tour!

## SEARCH FOR CRANES

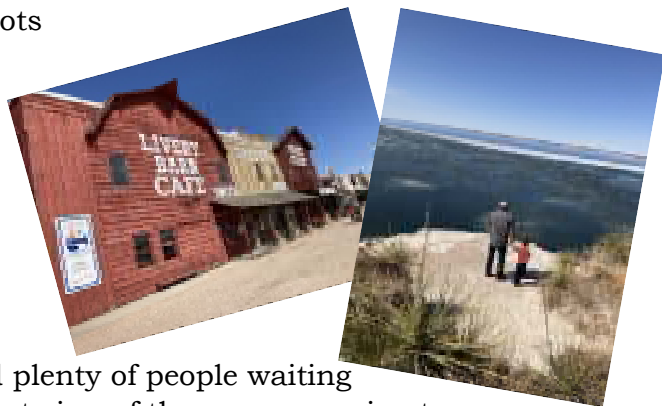
Visit Kearney does a "crane count" during the Sandhill Crane migration in the Central Platte River Valley. During week 6, they counted 625,900 (+/- 61,800) cranes!!! This is the highest crane count they have had. You can see more on the count on Facebook on "Visit Kearney" or "Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center."

My family decided to take a road trip a couple of weeks ago in search of the many Sandhill Cranes. We drove east on the Lincoln Highway National Scenic and Historic Byway, stopping at a few locations to look around and stretch our legs. In Ogallala, we stopped by Front Street, a replica of an old west town, to take some photos, then drove out to Lake McConaughy. We drove up on the dam on the east side of the lake and



walked around just below the parking lot. There were lots of seagulls around and still a decent amount of ice around the edges of the lake. The water seems to go on forever looking west across the lake – a very beautiful sight. But we didn't find any cranes.

We continued east, and after not finding any cranes in or around North Platte, we decided to continue on to Kearney. We started seeing some cranes in the fields around and kept seeing more and more the farther we drove. We exited at the Rowe Sanctuary exit and found plenty of people waiting



along the river for a sunset view of the cranes coming to roost on the river. There were thousands of cranes in the corn stubble fields and some were doing their famous dances. Closer to sunset we came back to the bridge at the river and finally found a parking space far down the country road. Families were enjoying the nice weather while others were getting their cameras ready for the show. As the sun set on the river, the sky filled with

cranes and we were serenaded by their melodies. It was a fantastic experience and I am so happy that these family adventures are possible.



If you haven't done so, take some time to make some memories in Nebraska! Even though the cranes are beginning to move on north, there are still plenty to make the experience worth your while.

*See more photos later in the newsletter.*

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

Another bucket list item for me has been to see and photograph the Northern Lights. I have memories of seeing them once in the northern Panhandle, but we have been too far south here in Kimball County to see them other times they were predicted. But, we were fortunate enough this past week to have a chance to see them here!

Again, my husband and our son came along to see what we could see – if it would be anything at all. We decided to try our viewing at Oliver Reservoir. The stars were brilliant, with Orion the Hunter standing guard on the western horizon, while the



Milky Way stretched across the sky above him. We didn't see anything for some time, but I still tried some long exposures to the north just to see what the camera might capture. It was incredible!! The pink/red glow above the northern horizon popped out of the pictures and even some tinges of green made an appearance. We then could see some faint light pillars coming up from the horizon and then a glow of color for short bursts of time. What another amazing experience!



There have been posts on possibilities of more chances to see the Aurora Borealis in the coming days, so keep watching for those. And even if you don't get to see the Northern Lights, get out of the city lights and take a look at the stars and see what constellations you can find! It always brings me a sense of peace to be covered in a blanket of stars – and Nebraska is a perfect place to see them.

## PAINT CLASS

In March, Stacey Bolin taught the class how to paint a beautiful sunflower. This was another design that she created and has used on items that she offers for sale (now in the Visitor Center gift shop!!), such as wine glasses and coffee mugs.

The students did a fantastic job and painted some gorgeous flowers!!!

The next class on April 23<sup>rd</sup> will feature Stacey's version of "Starry Night" on a 16x20" canvas. The Lyrid Meteor Shower should be at its peak the evening before, so this will be a great reminder to go out and see the stars again! See below for more information on how to get signed up!



## *"Starry Night For Comets" Paint Class*



**Event by Painting On The Prairie with Stacey Bolin (check her page out on Facebook)**

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

**Date: Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Time: 1 pm – 3 pm**

**Price: \$35 & includes everything**



## WONDERFUL VISITORS!

There have been more visitors this past month, especially on the gorgeous spring days we have had! We enjoyed having a couple from Michigan come through in March. His mother's maiden name was Kimball, so they had to get a photo in front of our mural to send to her.

We had another couple who stopped in from Alaska last week, the day after the Northern Lights appeared here in Kimball. I excitedly told them about my experience of seeing them, and they replied that they see them "all the time" where they live. So jealous! They are planning to take three months to travel through the continental US before heading for home. What a great vacation!!

There have also been plenty of people coming in to get their High Point certificates. We love being able to give travelers a little souvenir of "climbing the High Point" of Nebraska. It's a great thing to hang on your wall and make your family and friends envious of your excursions!

## PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



My son loves to throw rocks out at the lake – even though they just bounced across the ice this time!



We drove around on the country roads in March and found a herd of deer, along with finding beauty everywhere.



My favorite license plate we saw and more photos from the crane trip!



We also found some wonderful murals along the way!!

## UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

### April:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Kimball, NE – Kimball Public Schools Art Show at the KHS Student Center
- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> – Kimball, NE – “Uncharted” at Goodhand Theatre
- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> – Chadron, NE – Chadron Festival of Quilts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kimball, NE – 9-Ball Tournament Party Fundraiser at Beer & Loathing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bayard, NE – Stag Feed 2022 hosted by the Bayard Volunteer Fire Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sidney, NE – 4-H Spring Carnival at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Potter, NE – Hangar 39 Sunday Funday at Chuckaboo Station
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Alliance, NE – “Sand Hills and Sandlots” presentation at Alliance Public Library
- 8<sup>th</sup> – online – Virtual Crane Tour at 5 pm by OutNebraska and Rowe Sanctuary
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Friends of the Kimball Public Library Annual Meeting @ 2pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Kimball Hospital Foundation’s “Casino Night” at the SageBrush
- 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – Sidney, NE – 31<sup>st</sup> Annual KSID Spring Show at Cheyenne County Fairgrounds
- 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – Easter Egg Weekend at Riverside Discovery Center
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Easter
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Kimball, NE – Plains Historical Society Annual Meeting w/Jody L. Lamp presenting “Born to Rein” at the Kimball Public Library
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – anywhere – Lyrid Meteor Shower
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – “Sonic 2” at Goodhand Theatre
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Kimball, NE – Paint Class at the Kimball County Visitor Center
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Bushnell, NE – Bushnell Day Meeting @ 2 pm at the Fire Hall
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – Businesses Supporting Kimball Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup> – Kimball, NE – “Sonic 2” at Goodhand Theatre
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Gering, NE – Corks, Forks, and Brews at the Gering Civic Center
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Kimball, NE – “Murder at Moorbourne Manor” murder mystery 2 pm Tea @ Kimball County Transit; 6 pm Dinner @ the Eagles
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Scottsbluff, NE – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UMF Benefit Poker Run at Frontside Bar & Grill

### May:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Nebraska Passport Starts! (Stop by Nebraska Coffee in Kimball!!!!!!)
- 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – National Travel & Tourism Week
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Pine Bluffs, WY – Corgi Derby 2022 @ Pine Bluffs Distilling
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> – anywhere – Lunar Eclipse
- 21<sup>st</sup> – North Platte, NE – National Avocado Launching Championship
- 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> – Alliance, NE – Laing Lake Park Alliance Kite Festival
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Bayard, NE – Spring Heirloom Market
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day

## THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:



**GoodHAND Theatre**

Friends of the GoodHAND Theatre presents:

**UNCHARTED**  
[R-13]

Showing at 7 PM  
April 1 & 2  
Sunday Matinee at 2 pm  
April 3

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

**MOVIE SPONSORED BY  
THE KIMBALL ROTARY**

The story is a prequel to the games, starring Nathan as a younger Drake, showing us details of how he came to meet and befriend Sully.



**GoodHAND Theatre**

Friends of the GoodHAND Theatre presents:

**Sonic The Hedgehog 2**

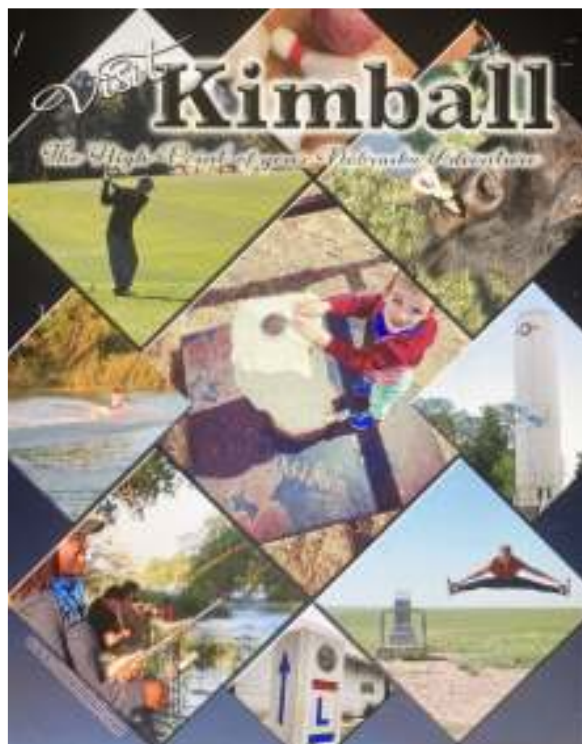
Showing at 7 PM  
April 22 & 23  
Sunday Matinee at 2 PM  
April 24

Also showing the weekend of April 28-May 1

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

**MOVIE SPONSORED BY  
Jennifer Griebel of  
Kimball High Plains Health**

After saving in Green Hill, Sonic is ready for more freedom, and Tails and Mabel agree to leave him home while they go on vacation. But, so soon as they go, when Dr. Robotnik comes back, this time with a new partner, Knuckles, in search for an emerald that has the power to both build and destroy civilizations. Sonic teams up with his once rival, Tails, and together they embark on a journey to find the emerald before it falls into the wrong hands.



*Kimball County  
Astrotourism Events*

April 24-25, 2023 - Spring Motor Showers  
golfers, looking south, about 10 hours

May 24-26, 2023 - Lunar Eclipse  
Blind Moon starts at 7:00 pm, sets at 9:20 pm on 24th day  
May 27-28, 2023 - Star Gazing  
June 14, 2023 - Super Moon  
Moonrise at 8:44 pm

June 25, 2023 - Total Eclipse & Star Gazing  
Aurora Borealis Chase on Grand Island  
July 15, 2023 - Super Moon  
Moonrise at 7:47 pm

July 28-29, 2023 - Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower  
golfers, looking south, about 10 hours

August 10-12, 2023 - Perseid Meteor Shower  
golfers, looking south, about 10 hours

August 24-25, 2023 - Star Gazing  
September 27, 2023 - Harvest Moon  
Moonrise at 1:41 pm

September 28-29, 2023 - Star Gazing  
October 30-31, 2023 - Orionid Meteor Shower  
golfers, looking south, about 10 hours

November 8, 2023 - Lunar Eclipse  
Blind Moon starts at 1:00 pm  
Moonrise at 8:00 am

November 18-19, 2023 - Leonid Meteor Shower  
golfers, looking south, about 10 hours

November 23-24, 2023 - Geminid Meteor Shower  
golfers, looking south, about 10 hours

**Kimball**  
*The "High Point" of your  
Midwestern adventure!*

204 S Kimball Blvd / visitkimballcountycenter  
www.visitkimball.com / 308-241-0573

Be on the lookout for our new Visit Kimball guide later this month, and check out some of our Astrotourism Events!

Please check out our Facebook page to see more events. [www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter](https://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 #visitkimball