



# High Plains Adventures 2024



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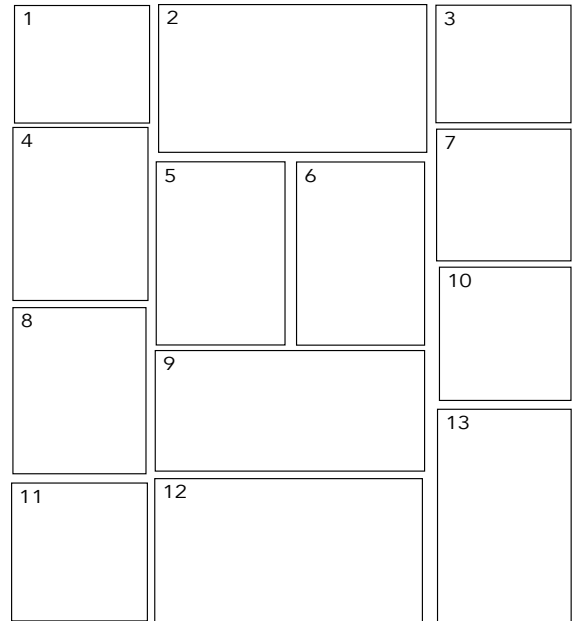
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10. Cody Go Karts Family Fun Park  
805 Halligan Dr., North Platte, NE 308-534-8277
11. High Plains Arts Council brings the arts to Sidney.  
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12. Windows On the Past, Pine Bluffs Archaeology Site,  
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## Ogallala, Nebraska



By A. Marie Hamilton  
*Sidney Sun-Telegraph*

**O**GALLALA – Gateway between where the east meets the west and where the south meets the north, Ogallala is chuck full of history where the wild west still breathes life into the high northern plains.

Winter-broken Wyomingites and Montanans would meet Texas Cattle kings in Ogallala’s hotels and saloons to barter over cattle prices and other goods – as many mountain west ranchers and farmers would bring their families for the local attractions.

Prior to the Union Pacific rolling through town in 1867, bridging the east to the west quicker, Ogallala was nothing more than a small, quick stop along the Oregon, Texas and Mormon Trails with the Pony Express. Eventually – Ogallala garnered its fame for its cattle drives to the railhead, earning itself the nickname of the “Cowboy Capital” before settlers moved further west into places like Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. However, despite its modernization through the decades, Ogallala is still affectionately known as the “Cowboy Capital” and it embodies its old west style facade and atmosphere in town.

Not only is there easy access to fan favorite spots for fishing, such as Lake McConaughy, Nebraska’s biggest lake and largest reservoir across a three-state region, there’s other attractions to draw everyone in to experience life as it was during the “Wild West” days.

Today, travelers get a first-hand and immersive experience of what the wild west was like with a replica town facade featuring architecture and daily life of original settlers right on Front Street, which is located at East First Street in town.

However, long before the first settlers, which at its peak was roughly 130 individuals according to a U.S. Census record, Ogallala was first discovered and settled temporarily by trappers from St. Louis, Missouri. Local folk-lore tells of how the trappers and Pawnee Natives coexisted peacefully with trade and other services among the two groups. The Pawnee Natives lived along the Republican River, however, their neighbors, The Sioux Natives, were less than friendly to the trappers and a bitterness between these two groups increasingly grew.

Eventually, the Oregon Trail settlers brought more people to Ogallala before those individuals and families continued on to Wyoming and Montana.

Originally, Union Pacific had planned for the Ogallala stop to be unassuming with a simple water tank for the

railroad and a small section of housing for travelers. However, three men forever changed the trajectory of Ogallala and its history when a pair of brothers and fellow traveler decided the high northern plains was a favorable climate for them to homestead and establish roots.

The Longergan brothers, Thomas and Philip, along with Louis Aufdengarten. The brothers originally came to Ogallala for construction work with Union Pacific and Aufdengarten drifted in with the U.S. Army, however, eventually he left the Army after he discharged from the local fort to become Ogallala’s first merchant with his General Store in 1868, which was located on the corner of the intersection of Railroad Street where the train originally stopped.

Records from 1876 indicates a number of saloons with such names as: “The Cowboy’s Rest” and the “Crystal Palace” accompanied the mercantile. At the end of Railroad Street was a dining room ran by local permanent resident S.S. Gast named the “Ogallala House.”

By 1880, Ogallala had continued to boom into the idyllic wild west boom town often depicted in movies and T.V. Shows, and expanded to include one courthouse, one school, one hotel, two dwelling houses and 25 permanent residents. The town continued to grow which drew in farmers, ranchers, producers and travelers from the east, west, south and north to all trade with one another or continue on their journey’s. Today, Ogallala remains a part of the heart of the cattle industry.

Ogallala received its name from the Ogala Sioux Native tribe, which is pronounced Oklada, which means “scatter” or “to scatter one’s own.”

### OGALLALA MANSION ON THE HILL

Take a step back into time in town and around town by visiting the Ogallala Mansion on the Hill, District #7 one room schoolhouse and the O’Brien/Lute homestead dwelling.

Ogallala Mansion on the Hill is an authentic Victorian style home and was considered the finest residence when it was completed in 1887; today the mansion is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a favorite to locals and visitors to Ogallala.

Built by L.A. Brandhoefer with red brick kilned from the local brick factory, it was first occupied by the H.L. McWilliams family, who was a local banker and his wife was a local socialite often entertaining the locals in her beautiful home.

Today, the Mansion is located on the corner of West 10th and Spruce Streets, and has been restored to

# Ogallala, Nebraska

highlight its numerous unique features, such as ten-foot ceilings, sixteen inches of thick solid brick walls, walnut shuttered windows and solid brass hardware throughout the home. The mansion also features two masterfully hand crafted cherry wood fireplaces, carved corner blocks and panel inserts around its doors and window frames. The ornate curved staircase leading up to the second floor is a breathtaking sight and experience to ascend and descend during the mansions free tours Tuesday's through Saturday's from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday's from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting the Friday before Memorial Day through the Sunday before Labor Day.

While at the Mansion, visitors can visit an authentic, restored one room school house right on the Mansion grounds. This is one of the original schoolhouses built in 1902, and the District #7 schoolhouse was originally located five miles south of Roscoe. Today the schoolhouse is owned by the Keith County Historical Society.

Also available for touring on the mansion grounds is the O'Brien/Lute home, an early 1900s homestead era dwelling. All three are free to tour, however, to continue renovations, maintenance and preservation of the buildings, donations will be appreciated.

## TRI-TRAILS PARK

Learn more about the "Wild West," early settlers on the Oregon Trail, Pony Express Trail and Great Western Cattle Trail, also known as the Texas Trail, by visiting the attractions offered at the Tri-Trails Park one mile south of Ogallala on Nebraska Highway 61 and one block west of the highway turnout.

At the park, visitors will explore and learn about the Oregon Trail and its history, which was used from 1840 through 1869, and followed the "Great Platte River Road" along the river's southern side.

Traveling along the trail today might give visitors a sense of stepping into 1971 gaming favorite "The Oregon Trail" as the natural trail bends and curves with the river – but be careful, you wouldn't want to catch dysentery or get bitten by a snake.

Visitors can also travel along the Pony Express Trail, which also followed the Oregon Trail through the county from April 1860 to November 1861. Today, the trail runs along the south side of the river, which is just north of Tri-Trails Park, and runs between Bomgaars and Dairy Queen. There were three Pony Express stations in the county at its height, the nearest to Tri-

Trails Park was the Sand Hills Station, known then as Gill's Station.

The Great Western Cattle Trail, a popular trail taken by Texans aimed at cattle bartering with Wyomingites and Montanans, also known as the "Texas Trail" runs through this valley and river as well. Visitors can learn more about all of this and more with various markers and activities at the park.

## OTHER SITES TO VISIT

Other sites to visit while in Ogallala include: Ash Hollow, Boot Hill, Front Street Crystal Palace Revue, Historic Walk of Fame, Keystone Little Church, Ole's in Paxton, the Petrified Wood Gallery, Spruce Street Station and much more in town.



KEITH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Victorian style Mansion on the Hill, a sight to behold in Ogallala, was considered among the area's finest residences when completed in 1887.

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# High Plains Adventures

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## 2024

### Chappell, Nebraska



NEBRASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This marker in Chappell is dedicated to preserving the memory of the 10 souls lost in the tragic World War II B-24J Bomber crash.

By A. Marie Hamilton  
*Sidney Sun-Telegraph*

Chappell was named after railroad construction engineer Charles Henry Chappell, according to local folklore. This was Chappell had supplies sent to him and his crew along the Union Pacific Railroad with the command, “Send this shipment out to Chappell.”

Eventually, Chappell became a platted seat in Deuel County on Sept. 19, 1884, by J.B. Carmichael. Nearly a quarter century later Chappell became the first incorporated village in Deuel County on Sept. 10, 1907.

Although the population of Chappell is less than 1,000, it holds significant history and plenty of places to visit – including the Sudman-Neumann Heritage House Museum and the crash site of a World War II (WWII) B-24J Bomber crash. Located on the outskirts of town – on its western edge -- stands a marker and memorial dedicated to preserving the memory of the ten souls lost in the tragic WWII B-24J #44-40758 Bomber crash.

According to the Deuel County Historical Society, Nebraska Historical Society and Chappell V.F.W. Post #7002, “During World War II, Nebraska was home to eleven air bases, which filled the sky with planes engaged in training aircrews.”

However, tragedy struck during a thunderstorm on June 7, 1944, after 15 B-24 bombers departed from the Lincoln Army Air Base en route to the west coast. During the thunderstorm, B-24-J #44-40758 caught fire, descended to 500 feet as it circled Chappell to try and

land when the aircraft unexpectedly exploded, tragically killing all service members from the 866th Bombardment Squadron (H), Seventh Air Force instantly. Those tragically killed included 2nd Lt. Donald S. Wallace, Peculiar, MO; 2nd Lt. Colon A. Holland, Waynesboro, MS; 2nd Lt. Frank K. Duffey, Cranford, NJ; 2nd Lt. Paul E. Rose, Mammoth Springs, AK; S/Sgt. Robert E. Rogers, Camilla, GA; S/Sgt. Vance C. Johnson, Stromsburg, NE; Sgt. Bernard T. Clark, New York, NY; Sgt. Ralph A. Young, Anadarko, OK; Sgt. Peter L. Zamboto, Rochester, NY; and M/Sgt. William E. Webster, Oneonta, NY.

Across town, located at 701 5th St., is the Fred and Minnie Meyer Sudman House. Built in 1911 by Frederick Sudman, a German immigrant, it was the first house in Chappell to have electricity and indoor plumbing. The family lived in the house from 1911 until 1987 and then given to the historical society on Aug. 17, 1988; it was registered with the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 6, 1990. Mr. Sudman lived in his new prairie home for less than a year before passing away according to a news clipping dated March 28, 1912. Mrs. Sudman, dubbed a “prominent pioneer of (Deuel) County” according to a newspaper clipping, passed away on Feb. 10, 1949, leaving her home to her children and grandchildren – who eventually gifted the house to the city in the late 80s. Fred and Minnie’s grandchildren, Mary Hardessen and Robert Neumann believed that due to the home’s historical presense and significance, it would have better use for the city and historical society.

The Renaissance style home has original wood paneling, original finished wood, pocket doors and has never been refinished – it has only been maintained in its lifetime.

Today, the Sudman home is a museum filled with memorabilia from not only the Sudman-Neumann’s, but also from former U.S. Representative Virginia D. Smith, R-Chappell, from her time serving in Congress: 1975-1991. Not only is Smith a Chappell native, but she is the first woman in Nebraska to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

In what’s considered the “birthing room” of the home, visitors will find Smith’s Congressional desk and U.S. Flag from her office in Washington D.C. The museum is also home to a number of other historical items, such as original military uniforms and items significant to city history. Tours are available by appointment only and visitors should call the Chappell Museum Association at 308-874-2657 to schedule a tour.

Other family-friendly events to check out in Chappell include: Touring the Chappell Husker Harvest Days exhibit hall, visiting the Chappell Children’s Museum, going fishing at Lake MacClain, taking a walk or bike ride through the Chappell Rails to Trails path, swimming at the Chappell Aquatic Center, or visiting the numerous community centers and parks around town.

For more information, go to [VisitDeuelCounty.com](http://VisitDeuelCounty.com).



# High Plains Adventures 2024

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## Deuel Co., Nebraska

## Oregon Trail Meets New World In Deuel County



COURTESY PHOTO

This Union Pacific Train is similar to the one in the famous robbery in eastern Deuel County.

*By A. Marie Hamilton  
Sidney Sun-Telegraph*

DEUEL COUNTY – There’s no shortage of adventures or history in Deuel County, which is nestled along the historic Oregon Trail, running mostly along the Interstate-80 (I-80) through Nebraska from Kearney to just west of Kenesaw. Just east of Chappell, the trail diverts north through Scottsbluff along the U.S. 26 (US26) and continues northwest through Wyoming before dipping down toward Utah and continuing on into Idaho. The trail originally began in Independence, which is called Kansas City today, and eventually ends in Portland, Oregon, then called Oregon City.

A secondary portion of the Oregon Trail, taken by confused travelers, followed the Platte River south into Colorado from the Pony Express stop in neighboring Keith County rather than following the North Platte River through Torrington, Wyoming on trail to Fort Laramie. After coming into modern day Denver, Colorado, those travelers eventually followed the Rocky Mountain

Front Range north into Wyoming and reconnected with the original Oregon Trail.

The Oregon Trail followed the original Pony Express Trail and much of the trail was later the foundational footprints of other trails. Some of those trails included: the Mormon Trail which ran from Illinois to Utah; the California Trail which began in St. Louis, Missouri and connected the east to the gold fields of California; the Bozeman Trail connecting the east to the gold rush in Montana, which also connected to the Oregon and California trails; and the “Great Trail,” also known as the Texas Trail, which connected the south to the north and eventually to the gold rush trails for cattlemen to sell their products.

Much of Nebraska’s southern region, Panhandle and WyoBraska areas served as the last stops between the civility of the East Coast and the unknown of the “Wild West” with its various Pony Express stops and U.S. Army Forts – in fact, visitors can travel along the 2,170 miles of the Oregon Trail and still tour the seven main forts along the trail in

which settlers, gold enthusiasts and cattlemen would travel. Those Forts included: Fort Kearny in Nebraska; Forts Laramie, Casper and Bridger in Wyoming, Forts Hall and Boise in Idaho and eventually, Fort Vancouver in Washington (then Oregon). These forts were protected by the U.S. Army, however, a number of smaller forts maintained by the Army sprung up along the trail.

The most infamous fort was Fort Laramie – this fort was roughly one-third of the way down the trail. Many settlers used this fort to determine if they would settle there, give up, go home or rest and repair their wagons to continue on. Fort Kearny, Nebraska was the first military post built to protect the travelers. Be sure to take a stop into Fort Laramie and learn how to make historically accurate and settlers treat known as Cowboy Bread.

### Eiker Park Historical Marker

The very first and largest robbery of a Union Pacific train happened in eastern Deuel County on the west end of Big

# Deuel County, Nebraska

Springs on Sept. 18, 1877. Notorious robber and gang boss Sam Bass and five of his members snuck onto the Union Pacific railcar heading from San Francisco, California, to Fort Knox carrying \$60,000 in newly minted gold.

As legend tells it, Bass and his companions captured Union Pacific Station Master John Barnhart, forced him to destroy the telegraph he was writing to inform the authorities and demanded Union Pacific express train No. 4 to come to a halt. Once Barnhart ordered the railcar to stop just outside of the old Big Springs Pony Express stop, the bandit and his outlaws reportedly made off with \$60,000 in new \$20 gold pieces and other currency taken from the railcar along with about \$1,000 in gold watches taken from passengers.

Local folklore says the loot taken from the Big Springs Robbery was divided among the gang boss and his thieves beneath the Lone Tree growing on the north side of the river. Soon after, the robbers split into pairs and fled the authorities.

Prior to the Union Pacific heist, Bass and his desperado's, who had been dubbed the "Black Hills Bandits," held up seven stage coaches and are believed to have committed several other robberies throughout the region, including the historic South Dakota 'Deadwood' Stage Coach heist. The group was unsuccessful the first four attempts to rob the Deadwood, however, on the fifth and final attempt, the group was successful due to killing the driver, Johnny Slaughter. Slaughter had gotten his name for being the deadliest driver who prevented robbers from looting the notorious coach.

Gangsters Joel Collins and Bill Heffridge were killed a week later by a sheriff's posse in Buffalo, Kansas, now Gove, Kansas, and some \$20,000 was recovered; a week later Jim Berry was killed near Mexico, Missouri; however, Tom Nixon and Jack Davis were never located. Nixon was believed to have escaped to Canada and Davis was believed to have escaped to South America. As for the crime boss himself, Bass was killed by Texas Rangers at Round Rock, Texas on July 21, 1878, on his 27th birthday in a shootout with lawmen who were tracking him.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Sam Bass, boss of the big train robbery in Deuel County, was killed in a shootout with a sheriff's posse that tracked him down in Texas.**

In Big Springs, a marker now sits at the location of the lone tree that once stood where the members divided their loot. The lone cottonwood tree tragically caught fire shortly after the heist; the cottonwood was estimated to be roughly 100 years old at the time of the robbery. In 1985, the U.S. Historic Land Mark Council presented the Nebraska Historical Society with the marker to be placed at the site of the lone cottonwood tree due to safety concerns of placing it near the rail line.

Today, the Big Springs Union Pacific rail heist remains the largest one in the rail service history.

## **Lincoln Highway Historic Byway**

Scenery along the Nebraska Lincoln Highway Historic Byway is largely unchanged since its inception and is the first transcontinental highway for automobiles in the United States. Interstate-30 (I-30), which runs mostly parallel with the I-80 on its north side stretches from Nebraska's eastern side starting in Omaha to Nebraska's western side in Kimball.

Conceived in 1912 and brainchild of Indiana entrepreneur Carl G. Fisher, the highway was dedicated to former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and runs from Times Square in New York City, New York to Lincoln Park in San Francisco, California. The transcontinental highway travels east to

west through 14 states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, West Virginia and California: it touches 128 counties and more than 700 U.S. Cities, towns and villages.

The 20-mile stretch from Big Springs and Chappell is well known for its beautiful, unchanged views since the first automobile passed through to today. Historic signs are seen along the highway at historically significant stops.

## **Big Springs Veterans Memorial**

While in Big Springs, visitors should stop by the Big Springs Veteran's Memorial Park, located at the corner of 2nd and Maple, across from the village swimming pool park.

The park includes a touching tribute with the engraved names of nearly 700 local veterans on three granite ledger stones and features a walkway to the circular memorial site.

The village raised nearly \$70,000 to create this touching tribute to not only local veterans, but to all veterans and current service members. It's masterfully landscaped and surrounded by poppies and trees.

## **Other Notable Locations Around Deuel County**

Pony Express Nine Mile Station Marker, located near the northwest quadrant of the I-80 interchange. Chappell resident and longstanding family to the area, Mrs. A.C. Cabela, is credited as the granddaughter of Pony Express Rider Michael Casey, who originally travel from Julesburg to Mud Springs in 1960.

Chappell Lake, just north of I-80, offers travelers plenty of places to fish for largemouth bass, catfish, perch, walleye and bluegill as well as short-term camping.

The county hosts a number of events, such as 'Old Settlers Day' in Lodgepole during Labor Day weekend, the Panhandle Czech Festival usually the last day in September and Oktoberfest.

Guests interested in learning more about rail history through the area should check out the Big Springs Depot, located at 202 W. 2nd St., Big Springs, Nebraska. The old railroad depot is now the town library. Visitors then can take a hike around Ash Hollow State Park in Lewellen.



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## Lodgepole & Cheyenne County



## Lodgepole & Its County: Home Of Pony Express

**C**CHEYENNE COUNTY – Nestled along the early part of the Oregon Trail, Cheyenne County offers visitors a glimpse back in time and is rich with history around every corner.

Once deemed “The Cowboy Capitol,” Cheyenne County still offers the laid-back, simpler life to today’s residents and visitors.

The birth of Cheyenne County and it’s various communities, such as Sidney, Lodgepole, Dalton, Gurley and Potter, can be traced back in time to former president Abraham Lincoln’s Pacific Railroad Act of 1862, which with its inception, brought the Union Pacific Railroad to the Panhandle area.

As the Pony Express expanded, the Union Pacific Railroad completed, numerous pioneering trails carved out, military forts and various trade stations built, Cheyenne County was established as a central hub which connected the East to the West and the North to the South.

One thing Cheyenne County is famous for is being a central location for thousands upon thousands of Gold Rush miners, in which many traveled the Sidney-Deadwood Trail to their final destinations. Along the path the county established saloons, theaters, boarding houses, food establishments, mercantile’s and even a few brothels to accommodate the weary travelers and establish itself as a booming bypass town.

Early on, in what local historians call “Cheyenne County’s Youth,” or “teenage years,” the city of Sidney earned the nickname, “Sinful Sidney,” long before Las Vegas, Nevada became Sin City. It was in Sidney where entertainers came to make a buck performing for the weary travelers and gold rush miners.

However, like most, Sidney and Cheyenne County eventually matured as the Gold Rush settled down and as agriculture became its mainstay. Eventually, Cheyenne County and Sidney would become the center of the cattle industry, where ranchers and farmers outnumbered and replaced miners and rail-workers.

Throughout history, Cheyenne County and Sidney have been active U.S. Military hubs, posts and depots – at one point, the U.S. Air Force did military training and exercises in the area in collaboration with various bases across the nation. The last time the military post in Cheyenne County was used was in 1942 and it closed for good in 1967.

After the World War II, Cheyenne County had struck liquid gold and soon its oil and natural gas industry became the newest commodity to draw in new residents. At its height in the oil and natural gas industry, Cheyenne County had become the second-leading producer of oil and natural gas in Nebraska and is still home to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conserva-



COURTESY PHOTO

**The Lodgepole Depot Museum is filled with early pioneer memorabilia, and the Pony Express Annex houses items donated by Joe Nardone, a Pony Express historian who is responsible for the mapping of the entire route and erection of historical markers at sites of stations.**

tion Commission.

Despite being hit with economic downturns, the Great Depression, pandemics and other setbacks, like Cabela’s moving it’s headquarters out of the state, Cheyenne County and Sidney remains as resilient as ever and continues to thrive in the face of adversity.

### **Lodgepole Depot Museum**

On the eastern side of the county along the original Pony Express line visitors will find The Village of Lodgepole and within the village limits is the Lodgepole Depot Museum, which is home to not only area history but also Nebraskan history.

The former Union Pacific Depot building was donated to the Village of Lodgepole by the Bates family; the Bates were one of the original and earliest

pioneer families to settle in Lodgepole.

The family patriarch, who first brought his family to the area, Burt Bates, was a well-known and colorful man according to historical records and family stories told by locals.

Bates used to ride his stunning horse through village parades and all over the county for various festivals, events and needs. Much of the Bates history, local Lodgepole history, Pony Express history, early settler/Gold Rush history, agricultural history, Cheyenne County history, Nebraska history and Union Pacific history can be found in the depot, which remains untouched in its original set-up. Upon arriving at the museum grounds, visitors will notice the untouched and

# Cheyenne County - Lodgepole, Nebraska

original set up of the train station with the stationmaster office and quarters, freight room – where trains unloaded – and a waiting room for travelers.

At the Depot, visitors will meet Harlow Welton, the station's mannequin dressed in a conductor's uniform. Welton was the station's last conductor, so for the village, naming their mannequin after Welton was a no brainer. In fact, Welton was well-known in the community for doing reenactments during the community's 'Old Settler's Day' celebrations, where he could be found demonstrating how to send telegraphs.

Also found at the depot museum, visitors can take a small glimpse into what school looked like for earlier residents because part of the now closed Lodgepole High School houses its history inside the depot.

In true Cheyenne fashion, the depot also has the U.S. Military uniforms of former residents



COURTESY PHOTO

**Pony Express historian Joe Nardone donated this vehicle to the Lodgepole Depot Museum. It traveled 761,327 miles to document Pony Express history.**

who have served in the armed forces on display. One uniform in particular was that of Lodgepole resident Lillian Flescher, who was one of the first flight nurses in the country.

However, most interestingly housed at the museum is the oddities visitors will find, such as a two-headed calf and tortoise shell due to the huge fossil bed discovered when the I-80 was being constructed through the area.

Seated along the most documented Pony Express miles in the nation, right in the heart of Nebraska and Cheyenne County, this little museum offers visitors the opportunity to explore parallels of life through the various industrialized eras: from the pioneering trails, steam-engine train and westward expansion to the completion of the transcontinental highway and modern day Cheyenne County.

Despite its size, vast rural communities and deeply agricultural industries today, Cheyenne County has been home for much of America's transitions and has served as an intersection from all four corners of the country.

Tours are free to the public, but by appointment only: to tour the museum visitors need to contact the village clerk at 308-483-5353.

## Lodgepole's

### Pony Express Museum

Right next door to the Lodgepole Depot Museum is the Lodgepole Pony Express Museum, which is filled with over \$100,000 worth of Pony Express memorabilia collected by local historian Gordon Wilkins.

Wilkins inspiration stems from fellow local historian, known as "Mr. Pony Express," Joe Nardone. Nardone began researching the Pony Express in 1994 and it's because of Nardone the original Pony Express trail is completely mapped – including 200 miles of the trail previously hidden. In his research, Nardone located known stations that were never located prior to his finding and he is responsible for marking 130 known sites along the trail.

The Pony Express trail is roughly 2,000 miles long and travels through some of the most desolate and wildest landscapes known to settlers

at the time, much of the trail remains unchanged and uninhabited today.

In 2015, Nardone donated many of his artifacts and vehicles used to explore the Pony Express Trail to Wilkins to be placed in the Lodgepole Pony Express Museum. Wilkins said it is because of Lodgepole's rich history with the Pony Express, that he chose to house the museum there.

In its heyday, the trail saw numerous riders daily, who rode roughly 250 miles a day with saddle bags full of mail, starting in St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California.

Later, the Pony Express line became the blueprint for the current U.S. Postal system.

In the museum, visitors will find a variety of artifacts and memorabilia from the Pony Express, including movie posters, original telegraph poles and the 1860 bible purchased by Alexander Majors from the New York Bible Society – which documented the 150th Anniversary edition of the Pony Express. The bible sold at auction for roughly \$38,000 in 2007. The museum is home to 60 realistic 1860's era paintings valued between \$120,000 to \$150,000.


This museum is only second to the original Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri, the home and start of the trail itself.

### Beyond The Exhibits

Whether driving from historical-marker to historical-marker in Cheyenne County or town-to-town, visitors will find America's deeply engrained and rich history as an infant nation, to a teenage nation to the modern nation it is today along its many trails, routes, rail lines and highways.

Sidney Regional  
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# High Plains Adventures 2023

INTERSTATE  
80

## Dalton & Gurley Nebraska

By A. Marie Hamilton  
*Sidney Sun-Telegraph*

**D**ALTON / GURLEY – North of Sidney, half way between the Oregon Trail running along the U.S. 26 and north of the Interstate-80 (I-80) lie two quaint little villages called Dalton and Gurley; once popular railroad communities which served as a transportation hub for the Nebraska, Wyoming and Western Railroad.

In 1867, Nebraska, Wyoming and Western Railroad received 150 acres between Dalton and Gurley in a purchase from Union Pacific after being given a land grant. These hubs became work stations for the newly emerging railroad, which offered daily freight and passenger transportation north to Deadwood, South Dakota and south to Denver, Colorado. The railroad began chugging along the rails in September 1900.

The Village of Dalton was established in 1900, however, it wasn't until June 7, 1902, with the completion of the first U.S. Post Office in the area that Dalton became an incorporated village. Although there is some uncertainty about where the village got its namesake, long-time locals believe the name was that of an early settler and Burlington Railroad official, Patrick Dalton.

The Village of Gurley was established in 1913 and in 1915, when Gurley got its own U.S. Post Office, the Burlington Railroad began operations in town. Gurley got its name from Burlington Railroad Superintendent Fred R. Gurley. Gurley didn't just work for the railroad, he genuinely cared for his new home, so much so he planted flowers and made the trellis at the center of town where there is still a park today.

Both villages soon became booming farming and agriculture centers in addition to being railroad hubs.

Dalton is credited with having the second Panhandle/Wyo-Braska newspaper in the western Nebraska territory, then called the Dalton Herald, which began operations in 1909. However, in 1914, a buyout renamed the paper to the Dalton Delegate, which published every Friday until it went out of publication in September 1951.

The Sidney Sun-Telegraph, then called the Sidney Telegraph from May 1873 through April 1881, was the first published newspaper established in western Nebraska, and is still in operation today.

Through the decades, western Nebraska's first newspaper had been called: The Plaindealer Telegraph from March 1881 through February 1885, The Sidney Telegraph from March 1885 through December 1912, The Telegraph from January 1913 through January 1930, The Telegraph-News from February 1930 through



CHEYENNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**This image of downtown Dalton, circa the 1890s and 1900s, gives a glimpse into how life was for early settlers and rail workers in the area.**

February 1943, back to The Telegraph in February 1943 through May 1951, and eventually back to The Sidney Telegraph in June 1951. In 1951, the paper absorbed what was remaining from the Dalton Delegate but kept its name until the paper bought out competitor newspaper, The Sidney Daily Sun in May 2000, renaming the paper to The Sidney Sun-Telegraph, which is celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2023.

### Dalton Prairie Schooner and Log Cabin Museum

Travel back into time to the outlaw west along the Pony Express, Sidney and Black Hills Gold Rush Trails by visiting the Dalton Prairie Schooner and Log Cabin Museum.

Visitors can explore how life was for early settlers looking to strike it rich during the summer months after Memorial Day until Labor Day on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum which is home to memorabilia of the era. The museum transports visitors to a simpler life with an educational experience.

The building, which is an original log cabin house which sat on the Greenwood Ranch, was given to the Cheyenne County Historical Society by a family relative, Virgil Boyd, to preserve the area's history along the various settler trails and rich railroad history. The facility received a number of grants in recent years to help preserve its history and added more artifacts from the era. This educational experience helps visitors see and learn about how harsh life was for rail workers and early settlers.

# High Plains Adventures 2024

**Sidney, Nebraska**



## HAUNTED HAPPENINGS IN SIDNEY

Where History Is Witnessed Far Beyond The Naked Eye

By Kelsey Arrington  
*Sidney Sun-Telegraph*

SIDNEY – The town of Sidney was incorporated in 1867 by the Union Pacific Railroad around an established military outpost. The Fort’s primary purpose was to protect Union Pacific track layers from arbitrary aggressive Indian attacks. Sidney, which was officially named after the premier railroad builder and executive manager from New York, Sidney Dillon, was recognized as Fort Sidney in 1870 after the post was relocated to its permanent site.

Directly situated on the now famous Sidney-Black Hills (Deadwood) Trail, thousands of travelers and frontiersmen made their way through town in the 1870s on their way to claim gold in South Dakota which had been discovered in the Black Hills in 1874. Within two years, the trail reached legendary Deadwood and other well-known settlements located in the pine-covered hills of hidden gold. Leaving

a lasting impression on not only the hills, but their paths leading to, Sidney was cemented with a colorful enduring history.

From saloons galore to brothels, gambling dens, and dance halls, Sidney was quite the lawless old-west town. Known as the “Toughest Town on The Tracks,” “Sinful Sidney,” and “Wickedest Town in the West,” the rowdy western oasis stood still with a wild reputation to uphold.

Not letting the dust settle, countless outlaws and famous American criminals, gunfighters, and ladies of the night graced the streets and alleys of Sidney. Doc Holiday supposedly held his dental practice in town; while Butch Cassidy, Wild Bill Hickok, and Calamity Jane have also been reported to have frequented the parts.

Common for the small city, town dances consisted of provoked and unprovoked gunfire which often resulted in multiple casualties. Not one to bat an eye, the townspeople



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NEBRASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**The 1884 Fort Sidney 21st Infantry officers stationed at Fort Sidney gathered for this historic photograph.**

would toss the bodies to the corner until the dance was; only then would they properly dispose of the cadavers. The disorderly conduct, conflicts, and murder were so common in Sidney that the railroad once threatened to remove its services to the area completely. Thankfully for the town on the tracks, that never happened, and Sidney still serves as a railroad town to this day.

To say Sidney has been graced with the footprints and bullet holes of some of the Old West's most notorious faces and names would be putting it entirely lightly. And to say there's no residual activity from such affairs would be, to put it mildly, unnaturally strange and far from unheard of.

### **THE POST COMMANDER'S HOME AND FORT SIDNEY MUSEUM**

Housing the Fort's original base Commander as well as Sidney's most famous resident ghost, the Post Commander's home located at 1108 6th Avenue is swimming with the energy of days long past. Arguably most well known for the tragic 1885 accident that claimed the life of a young officer's wife, the historic home stirs with her paranormal specter. As the legend goes, the young homemaker was carrying laundry up a narrow staircase when she lost her balance falling down the stairs and breaking her neck. When her husband discovered her lifeless body he ordered the staircase to be boarded up, until it was officially discovered and restored in 1975. Still closed off to the public today, the staircase remains an exceptionally active location in the home. Witnesses claim to hear someone either walking up or down the stairs and then falling; the spookiest part? These accounts far outdate the 1975 discovery, meaning the phantom accident was heard and recounted even before the stairs were known of. House keeping to this day, she is still heard walking up the steps to her fateful fall.

Keeping the history of Sidney alive, the Fort Sidney Museum is bursting with over 2,500 different antiques, collectibles and treasures of days past. Located at 544 Jackson Street, the stop is well worth the trip. The museum (which neighbors the Post Commander's Home) is open for tours in the summer season Monday-Friday and Saturdays as



NEBRASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**The Fort Sidney officers stayed in these quarters, now a museum at the well-preserved fort grounds in the city limits.**

well.

### **BOOT HILL, THE "BAD MAN'S" CEMETERY**

"Boot Hill" Cemetery, Sidney's true original graveyard circa 1868, houses over a thousand untouched graves... some of which hold unspoken secrets over 150 years old. Often referred to as the "Bad Man's" cemetery; known for its orbs, mist, full body apparitions, and "walls of fire"



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# Sidney, Nebraska



COURTESY PHOTO

Sidney's Boot Hill cemetery, where the last official burial took place in 1894, is filled with mystery and bodies –1,200 of them scattered and undisturbed.

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when photographed, the burial grounds served as a permanent drop off for Sidney's most undesirable residents and visitors. It's all in the name; many of these anonymous deceased died suddenly, often violently, and buried promptly with their boots on. Many whom put those in their graves often ended up there themselves. Known today as a small square of ground; what many don't realize is, Boot Hill is technically almost the entirety of Sidney's hills. In fact, if you've ever driven down Elm Street past the noticeable landmark, you've driven right over history itself. Underneath the asphalt lays 156 years of silenced mystery, with over 1,200 bodies scattered and undisturbed,

"The true beginnings of a Stephen King novel," jokes the head of Boot Hill Historical Committee, Kathy Wilson. With the last official burial taking place in 1894, the land laid forgotten and dilapidated. In 1922 a campaign led by the U.S. Army sought to uncover its fallen soldiers and Indian scouts from the unmarked plots; after an extensive process and the removal of 211 bodies – many of whom were not the desired find – the Army carefully collected their comrades, and quietly covered again the abandoned land and the rest of its occupants. What the Army had revealed furthered Sidney's lore; a man buried face down with barbed wire bound to his hands and pulled to the side of his head where it was then twisted around the neck, a Mother and her infant child sharing the same plot covered in 19 arrowheads through their scalps, and a strange "giant" from the time that peaked at well over seven feet tall. The list goes on.

As the Army's efforts at excavations had delivered more surprise than reward, the land was once again pushed out of mind serving as farm ground for decades. Not commemorated in anyway, the area remains exceptionally active with supernatural activity, "Why wouldn't it," Wilson says, "People are driving over them every day, what lays here is completely forgotten." Active in preserving Sidney's untold history, Wilson and her committee have taken the time to truly learn the land, "The 'old timers' told us that the bodies are buried all the way up the hill spilling out into the county roads. Whenever we have work done police has to be on scene as bones are always uncovered, once we had a policeman fall through a grave on such an occasion." As old west coffins were primarily made with unsealed walnut or other sourced materials, areas have sunk or have had to be collapsed where the wood has since deteriorated. The area frequents the phenomenon - phantasmia, defined as odors that aren't technically present in an environment; also known as 'phantom smells.' If you're walking the area of Boot Hill you may catch a whiff of either cedar or rose water; common scents for the 1860s as cedar was often used in the production of coffins, and rose water was implemented to mask the lingering odor of decay. The historic graveyard offers 13 boards explaining the happenings as well as the findings of the area. "We don't step on anyone's beliefs," Wilson mentions, "Take the pictures, and see what you see." Located at 706 Elm Street just off of the main roads in Sidney, Boot Hill is certainly worth the stop, or at least a drive past.



SIDNEY GOLD RUSH DAYS

**Sidney hosts the annual Gold Rush Days every June, a labor of love in which area folks reenact how life was for early settlers along the Pony Express and various settler trails. This celebration includes musical performances, storytelling, cookouts and historical displays. Above, cowboy reenactors enjoy coffee and each other's company.**

### **SIDNEY'S OLDEST BUILDING – CAMP LOOKOUT**

Known as the oldest building in Sidney, Cheyenne County, and perhaps even the Panhandle; Camp Lookout was built in 1867 to house soldiers protecting Union Pacific railroad workers striving to lay tracks throughout the open plains. Frequent clashes and impromptu battles between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians with rail workers brought military officials to the area that would eventually be named Fort Sidney. What was once just a block house on a bluff soon became Sidney Barracks; later after the Army pulled out in 1894, the location was converted into a lodging facility as well as a cathouse and even a private residence. With six additions added to the original structure over the course of over 150 years, soon the once noticeable Lookout became an unrecognizable eye sore on the hill. With the help of volunteers and appreciators of the past, the Nebraska Landmark now stands and appears just as it did during its heydays in the late 1860s. "We're talking about nine years of extensive restoration projects," Kathy Wilson, Chair of the Camp Lookout Committee had to say, "This was not just pulling up some carpet and painting a

few walls, it is entirely period correct. It is just how it was in 1867." The legend and lore of Camp Lookout still survives beyond its walls; with artifacts and mementos of the past resting in their treasured displays, the Lookout houses a number of unique excavated items – opium pipes, soldier's boots and belongings, rings, coins, children's toys, old glass bottles, you name it and it's there. "We're not going to sanitize our history, we're going to talk about it," Wilson mentions. As there are physical items of the past present, it only makes sense to say the ghostly imprint of its colorful history also lingers. There is recorded evidence of three or four different deaths at Camp Lookout; in fact, a Madame from the brothel was murdered right on the back porch of the establishment. Which leaves a very important question; is it haunted, or isn't it? The answer is for you to determine. Interested in witnessing history for yourself? Located at 940 Elm Street in Sidney, Camp Lookout is available for tours upon inquiry. The landmark is also in eyeshot of practically any downtown location.

### **SIDNEY**

#### **ELKS LODGE NO. 1894**

Nestled on a cornerstone just off of the historical busi-

## Sidney, Nebraska



COURTESY PHOTO

The Angel of Hope at Sidney's beautiful Living Memorial Gardens, located in Legion Park, is a source of inspiration and comfort that welcomes visitors from near and far all year. This is Nebraska's first Angel of Hope Memorial. Legion Park also is home to the War Memorial commemorating veterans from all American wars, a 141-foot flagpole and one of America's largest U.S. flags.

ness district in downtown; home to Sidney's oldest (still standing) performing arts venue, the Elks Club and Lodge which was originally constructed in 1930 houses displaced spirits from the once next door Tobin Opera House.

The Opera House, which was built in 1883 as an entertainment hall for Sidney, hosting many different theatrical productions as well as boxing matches, "electric theatre" motion pictures, and live events such as dances. The lights of the classic Opera House officially went dark in 1930 possibly from never converting from silent film to "talkie pictures," Tobin Opera House was torn down in December of 1938. The old location has now been converted to a modern day parking lot, but the energy of the once popular Opera House still lives on.

Members and staff of the Elks are quick to tell of a gentle "mother like figure" the Lodge has respectfully dubbed "Sheila," who graces the MainStage and floor. Known to be particularly active during theatre productions, Sheila is most often felt or noticed during children's shows. Dancing blissfully on the opposite side of the room, reports of a phantom couple dressed in formal period attire waltz on the floor beneath the stage. But the main floor isn't the only with known activity; the basement, which served as a member's only "club," remains somewhat active as well. With miscellaneous dealings and gambling debts contributing, a potential homicide also stirs the energy in the air.

Known for cold spots and unexplainable noises, the

Lodge is available for tours upon inquiry. As it was also once the county jail; with the cell blocks still located upstairs bars and all, there are three floors of the unknown to discover at 1040 Jackson Street in downtown Sidney.

### SIDNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Originally constructed in 1965, the shining linoleum floors specifically located outside of the middle school's auditorium are said to house the spirit of a young girl from the 1980s who left to walk home for lunch and was struck and killed crossing the street. Often seen either walking the halls or playing in the middle school gymnasium or up on the stage; she is quick to scatter once noticed by teachers, students or staff of the school, even flinging open doors to flee from lurking eyes. The school can be found at 1122 19th Ave in Sidney.

\*LISTED SOURCES:  
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Boot Hill & Camp Look-out Historical Committee



## Arts Council Brings Big Shows To Small Town

Since its debut season in 1986-87, High Plains Art Council (HPAC) has searched high and low to find quality entertainment to perform on their stage in Sidney. And they have come ... from Denver to Dallas, from Phoenix to Minneapolis, and from Chicago to New York City ... to this small town in Nebraska's Panhandle.

About eight shows are held each year in the 649-seat Sidney High School Performing Arts Center. The 2024-25 season will HPAC's 38th, and an exciting lineup of seasoned professionals is scheduled. All evening performances begin at 7 and tickets are available at the door.

Here's a look at the 2024-25 season.

### Thursday, September 12, 2024 – WELCOME HOME

#### The Legacy of Carole King

This hit concert returns audiences to the times shaped by the songs of the legendary, two-time Hall of Fame inductee, Carole King. Accompanied by her band, lead singer and pianist Michelle Foster brings a vibrant and nuanced sound to the songs audiences know and love.

### Saturday, October 12, 2024 – FANTASTICK PATRICK

#### The One Man Variety Show

A very sought after performer, Fantastick Patrick blends comedy, circus tricks, and live music to create an explosively entertaining experience. Patrick's love for performing makes his show fun for audiences of all ages. You can expect everything from juggling fire, swords, and balls, to an awesome yo-yo act, plate-spinning, and free-balancing massive objects on his face!

### November 7-11, 2024 – STEVE TAMAYO Artist in Residence

Steve Tamayo, a member of the Lakota tribe, will conduct a weeklong residency of interactive workshops in Nebraska history and native American culture for Sidney's fourth grade students.

### Thursday, December 19, 2024 – DANIEL CHRISTIAN Christmas at Home

Award-winning singer-songwriter and Nashville recording artist Daniel Christian and his band will perform a concert of songs for the holiday season, including many Christmas favorites and a few unique selections. Critics and appreciative fans agree that Daniel's melodic style

“sounds like cinnamon rolls taste!”

### Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025 – MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE Pinocchio

MCT, the nation's largest touring children's theatre, has been “Helping Kids Reach A New Stage” for 52 years, working with 65,000 children in more than 1,200 communities in all 50 states and in 17 countries each year. When one of 44 teams of MCT Tour Actor/Directors arrive in Sidney in January, they bring scripts, music, sets, costumes, makeup, and props – everything it takes to put on a musical ... except the cast. Auditions are held and more than 50 local children are cast, as well as assistant directors.

### Friday, February 21, 2025 – NOT TOO FAR DISTANT

#### A Play Bringing History To Life

Seven actors will bring to life a captivating new play, written by award-winning Nebraska playwright Becky Boesen, in which a young man from Nebraska is sent to war, carrying with him the hopes of the free world. “Not Too Far Distant” was a sold out show during the 2023-24 season at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, and now the High Plains Arts Council is happy to bring a student matinee, an evening production, and a workshop to Sidney.

### Friday, March 28, 2025 – THE HALL SISTERS Country Pop Harmonies & Strings

The four Hall Sisters have established themselves as one of the up-and-coming acts in the country pop genre. Their sound has been described as a combination of the earthy vibe of Lady A and the soulful harmony of the Carpenters. While releasing CDs, they have performed at The Grand Ole Opry, Carnegie Hall and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

### Friday, May 2, 2025 – THE FLYOVERS Contemporary A Cappella

The Flyovers are a modern high-energy a cappella quintet from Lincoln, Nebraska. Consisting of two tenors (Ether Saure and Lucas Kellison), a soaring soprano (Anna Claridge), a rumbling bass (Bill Catlett), and an impossible beatboxer (D-Wayne), the group was formed during the pandemic in 2020, and released two albums before they ever met as a group! Since then, they released two more albums and appeared at sold out shows throughout the state.



Michelle Foster opens HPAC's 2024-25 season Sept. 12 with her Carole King tribute show.

— HIGH PLAINS —

*Arts Council*

**SIDNEY, NEBRASKA**

[www.HighPlainsArtsCouncil.com](http://www.HighPlainsArtsCouncil.com)

**Looking For Something To Do?**

**The High Plains Arts Council**

**Brings Big City Entertainment to**

**Small Town Nebraska**

The 2024-2025 season will be HPAC's 38th, and an exciting lineup has been scheduled. All evening performances begin at 7 p.m. at the Sidney High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets are always available at the door. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$5 for students, and children under five are free.

The High Plains Arts Council is supported in part by local sponsorships and season memberships as well as grants from the Nebraska Arts Council, which is supported by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Legislature, and National Endowment for the Arts.

# High Plains Adventures 2024

STERLING  
80

## Sterling, Colorado



EXPLORESTERLING.COM

Sterling, Colorado, is known as the “City of Living Trees” for its collection of hand-carved tree sculptures that is worth touring.

**S**terling is located about an hour south of Interstate 80, near Interstate 76 in Colorado.

It has numerous public parks that offer walking and multi-use paths, trails, picnic areas and playgrounds. Sterling also has a variety of restaurants and stores for shopping.

The Logan County Fair and Rodeo is an annual event and will be held Aug. 8 through Aug. 12 in 2017. Another big event, the Sugar Beets Days Arts and Crafts Festival, is slated for September.

### The Overland Trail Recreation Area

The area features a five-acre fishing pond open to all ages as well as biking trails, grass, trees, fishing, picnic tables, BBQ grills, walking path, off road parking, restroom and fishing pier.

It's located on Highway 6, east of the South Platte River.

### The Overland Trail Museum

The museum houses an eclectic mix of historical items in the main building, which resembles an early fort, as well as a restored local one-room schoolhouse and other restored historical buildings.

Picnic grounds are adjacent. The museum is located on Highway 6 east of the South Platte River. Call for price of admission (970) 522-3895 for hours of operation and prices.

### Sterling Recreation Center

The center offers racquetball, basketball on a quarter-court,

wallyball and a fitness center.

The center also has an indoor pool with a capacity of 225, including the diving well and an outdoor pool with a capacity of nearly 450. The outdoor pool includes several water features including a Multi-Play 5 and three slides.

The pool has a 50ft by 50ft beach entry as well as a separate wading pool with a mini water dome and six water jets. The largest attraction at the pool is the double flumed slide, complete with a translucent blue speed slide about 130 feet long and one open flume slide about 220 feet long.

Picnic tables and chairs can accommodate over 300 patrons and the seven shade structures provide protection from the sun.

The center is located at 808 Elm St. Call (970) 522-7882. for hours and fees.

### City of Living Trees

The City of Living Trees, with many of Bradford Rhea's tree sculptures, are situated around the city.

Columbine Park features two of the city's living-tree sculptures – trees carved into shapes representing a mermaid, a golfer or a herd of giraffes, by the local artist Rhea.

At the entrance to the park is the symbol of the City of Living Trees – “Skygrazers.” Originally dedicated in 1984, the sculpture was recast in bronze in 2000 where the original once stood.

The original wood carving, “The Metamorphosis,” is now located at the French Hall of Sterling's Northeastern Junior College. The bronze version, available for viewing 24 hours a day, was created in 2002 and now greets tourists there.

At the intersection of U.S. Highway 6 and Interstate 76, in the Ramada Inn Courtyard, is Rhea's “The Scion,” created in 1987 from a 100-year-old cottonwood tree, available for public viewing year-round.

Rhea approached city officials more than 25 years ago when he heard they were planning on removing dying trees around the city.

There are nine sculptures situated in different city landmarks for easy public access and self-guided tours.

### North Sterling State Park

Situated on the North Sterling Reservoir, which is a man-made lake fed by waters from the South Platte River.

This state park has three state-of-the-art boat ramps and three modern camping areas with over 150 camping sites, as well as multiple picnicking sites. The park is famous for its superb swimming, boating, waterskiing, camping, and fishing. Elk's Campground is open year-round.

The Northside Marina is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. daily. Gas, food, drinks, ice cream, camping, boating and fishing supplies are available for purchase.

Fishing licenses need to be purchased before coming to the park. For more information, call (970) 522-3657.



# High Plains Adventures 2024

INTERSTATE  
80

## Potter, Nebraska

**P**otter – Just west of Sidney on the western edge of Cheyenne County travelers will come across two small agricultural villages that were both once part of the southern Oregon Trail and is also chuck full of antiquity.

In the Village of Potter, the furthest west town in the county, there are two museums: Village of Potter Museum and Potter Depot Museum.

Decades after the first settlers and trail travelers passed through the Oregon Trail, the Village of Potter was established as a respite town as the transcontinental railroad continued to progress westward. The town itself would be named after Union Pacific Railroad Director of the time General Joseph S. Potter.

In 1870, Union Pacific built a station house, which later served as the village post office, schoolhouse and land development office. In fact, it was the only building in town until rail-worker communities began settling in the area and in 1885 a hotel was built, bringing with it a number of other buildings. One of those new businesses that popped up was a newspaper called the Potter Review, soon after, a church was built. Very quickly, settlers noticed the fertile lands allowed for productive and easy farming. By 1892, the town had to build big crop, grain bins to hold the oats and wheat local farmers were growing.

However, like most communities, Potter was no stranger to economic downturns, droughts, hardships and even the Great Depression.

In 1904 the Kinkaid Amendment passed under the Homestead Act of 1862, which granted 640 acres to new homesteaders settling in 37 counties in western Nebraska. Shortly after, in 1907, the first western Nebraska bank was organized. The establishment of the bank allowed for homesteaders to improve their communities, such as adding sidewalks, developing water and electrical systems and other community commodities – such as schoolhouses. The village's first brick schoolhouse was built in 1915, when Potter became an incorporated town.

The 'Roaring 20s' brought prosperity, a library, a second generating union, a volunteer fire department and a power plant to the area. Additionally, by 1929, the Lincoln Highway was built and the original route ran through the downtown Front Street. Later, the route was changed to a by-pass on the south side of the tracks to keep noise traffic down.

Despite barely making it through the Depression, Potter hosted its first Potter Days in 1936, a festival honoring the humble beginnings of the town and annually held over Labor Day weekend with parades, drawings, contests, exhibits and a dance – or two.

### Potter Museum

The Potter Museum holds historical artifacts of significance



COURTESY PHOTO.

**Potter's original Post Office also was home of the Union Pacific Railroad, a schoolhouse and a development office.**

to the development of Potter and surrounding Panhandle/WyoBraska area. Although the museum does not have regular hours, it is open during special events held in Potter and can be viewed by appointment by calling the village clerk at 308-879-4332.

### Depot Museum

Just off Front Street, visitors will find the quaint Depot Museum, which is home to rail history that is significant to the area. Like the Potter Museum, it also does not have regular hours and is open during special events or can be toured by appointment only by calling the village clerk at 308-879-4332.

The Union Pacific Depot Museum moved back to Potter in 1991 and reopened its doors to the public in 1996. Today it holds railroad and agricultural memorabilia.

### Prairie Pines

In the heart of Potter is Nebraska's only seven-hole golf course which features riding carts and club house. Locals are welcome to play winter rules year-round.

### Dix Museum

To the west of Dix off Highway 30 or I-80 is the village of Dix, home to a school in the Potter-Dix Public Schools.

Here you will find an assortment of activities.

If you're done cooling off at the Dix Splash Pad, finished your summer reading at the Dix Library and are all played out from the various picnic areas, trails or parks in town – visitors can head to the Dix Museum to learn even more about the area history. Like Potter and Lodgepole, the Dix Museum offers a glimpse back in time in how local ranchers, farmers and producers lived a slower life.

Much of the Dix Museum tells of the area's agricultural beginnings as well as its hard years. To schedule a visit, visitors should call the village clerk at 308-682-5279.

# High Plains Adventures 2024

INTERSTATE 80

## Scottsbluff & Area, Nebraska



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Courthouse and Jail rocks near Bridgeport aren't as famous as the nearby Scotts Bluff and Chimney Rock national monuments, but they are amazing and most deserving of a visit.

Two towering landmarks show the way. Scotts Bluff National Monument and Chimney Rock stand silent guard over the Westward Migration Trails for you just as they did for the thousands before you.

### Chimney Rock

The most famous site along the Oregon Trail, this unique rock formation resembles a spire. At the pace of wagon travel, Chimney Rock was visible for several days as pioneers plodded along. They considered this – along with nearby Court House Rock and Jail Rock – to be the first sign pioneers had reached the West.

And now, thousands of tourists visit every year. The museum is a jewel and well worth a visit.

### Chimney Rock Pony Express Station

Wagon wheel ruts are still visible south of Bayard on and near Oregon Trail Road. The foundation remains of a sod building that serviced Pony Express riders and a stage coach line can be viewed two miles south and just over a mile west of the town.

### Amanda Lamme Gravesite

Along the Oregon Trail, one of the few graves marked for posterity by those traveling west. The location also offers a pioneer view of Court House and Jail Rocks.

### Fort Mitchell and Pony Express Station

A monument on the left to Pony Express riders and a marker on the right identifying Fort Mitchell's north-west corner sit to the west of the intersection of Highway 92 and Hunt Dairy Road.

Mitchell Pass and the City of Mitchell derive their



HIGH PLAINS ADVENTURES

You'll find the quirky attraction Carhenge, known as Nebraska's answer to England's Stonehenge, off of Highway 87 north of Alliance.

names from the cavalry-era fort, built in 1864. Today, no trace of the fort remains.

Information about Fort Mitchell and the Oregon Trail can be found at the Scotts Bluff National Monument.

### Legacy of the Plains Museum

Located in Gering on the Oregon Trail, the Legacy of the Plains Museum features an impressive collection of pioneer and early community artifacts, antique tractors, and farm implements, an 80-acre working farm, historic farmstead structures and striking views of Scotts Bluff National Monument.

### Lake Minatare State Recreation Area

If being indoors during the winter has got you itching for a chance to play in the water, Lake Minatare State Recreation Area won't let you down.

With more than 2,000 acres of water, there's plenty of room for water sport fun.

Settle onto the beach for an afternoon of sun tanning and swimming, or bring the fishing boat and drop a line into one of the area's most popular spots.

### Courthouse and Jail Rocks

The first features travelers on the Oregon and Mormon trails remarked upon in their letters, the two formations reminded pioneers of a stately courthouse and rickety jail in Bridgeport.

These were the first large geological signs they were leaving the Great Plains.

### Sidney-Deadwood Trail Marker

Commemorates the 2,000 wooden span that crossed the North Platte and gave Bridgeport its name.



# High Plains Adventures 2024



## Kimball, Nebraska

The beauty and grandeur of the High Plains are what make Kimball County and the people of the region an exceptional breed.

The people are fiercely independent, yet friendly and exemplify the American spirit. Kimball County was founded on pride and a strong work ethic. Those characteristics have been passed down from generation to generation.

The town of Kimball grew out of the prairie in 1870, as a water supply station for the Union Pacific's steam-powered locomotives. The town was initially called Antelopeville because of the prevalence of antelope. However, by 1889 the name would be changed to Kimball after Thomas Lord Kimball, a general manager on the Union Pacific Railroad.

The landscape depicts much of the area's history as oil wells continue to produce and missile sites dot land throughout the county. Kimball experienced an economic

boom during the 1960s due to the discovery of oil and the installation of the Minuteman I missile silos.

Today, about 3,800 people inhabit the 952 square miles of Kimball County; the population density is just four people per square mile. There is plenty of room to spread your wings and enjoy the clean air and beautiful skies.

The foundations of American life still exist today on farms and ranches, in the oil field business, at the Minuteman III missile bases, in local businesses, and among the resilient, strong-willed people. Wheat, corn, millet, sugar beets and cattle are major crops produced in the region.

Locals, travelers, and visitors are invited to enjoy the special recreational activities that Kimball County offers, including hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, sporting activities, and the history and culture of the area.

A uniqueness of Kimball County exists in the elevation. The elevation gradually rises from 4,600 feet near



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# Kimball, Nebraska



JIM ORR

This restored original stage curtain is a sight to behold inside downtown Kimball's landmark Fraternal Hall, which was built in 1904. The Plains Historical Society offers tours inside the hall during summer and by appointment. The building now doubles as a museum and venue for occasional events.

## Plains Historical Society

*Our wonderful museum exhibits await you in Kimball, Nebraska!*



We offer two locations in downtown and the historic 1920 Kimball County High School. Here you will experience our wide variety of Early Homestead, Native and Kimball artifacts.

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Dix to 5,429 feet above sea level at Panorama Point – also known as Constable Mountain, the high point of Nebraska in the southwest corner of the county. Panorama Point or Constable Mountain isn't a mountain but just a simple rise on the High Plains of Kimball County.

Near Panorama Point is the three-corners, where Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska meet, and the view of the Rocky Mountains is spectacular. The scenery of the High Plains is breathtaking. But nothing is more astonishing than the recreational activities.

### Lincoln Highway

A spectacular piece of history still exists in Kimball County, the Lincoln Highway. The first cross-country roadway between New York to San Francisco, the Lincoln Highway was dedicated in 1913 covering 3,389 miles. The road wiggled its way through towns and villages including in Kimball County, Jacinto, Dix, Kimball and Bushnell. The Lincoln Highway brought tourism and prosperity to the many towns along the way, it was called "The Main Street Across America." Eventually, Highway 30, then Interstate 80 would follow the same general path as the Lincoln Highway.

### Four Winds Golf Course

Kimball County is the home to Four Winds Golf Course, a beautifully manicured city-county venture which initially opened to nine holes in 1969, replacing a sand green course from the early 1920s. The 18-hole public course is composed of 320 acres and the envy of many golfers in the Panhandle.

The course once was a treeless prairie. Now it is covered by thousands of pine trees and four water hazards,

# Kimball, Nebraska



JESSICA ROCHA

**Oliver Reservoir, a popular destination for outdoors activities, is a pretty place during the day, any day. And at night? When the Northern Lights visited and did their dance above the lake, well, this picture tells a thousand words.**

and it is the home course of many excellent players who have gone to excel in the sport. The course is a great stress reducer for area golfers. Even youngsters just learning to play the game are encouraged to play on the Junior Golf area designed especially for youth.

### Oliver Lake

To tame the prairie, another manmade project brought irrigation to farm ground in the early 1900s, but now Oliver Lake (also known as Oliver Reservoir) provides enjoyment and relaxation throughout the seasons.

Oliver, located 9 miles west of Kimball County, was built in 1911 to irrigate 7,200 acres of farm ground. And now? Oliver is a popular recreational area for boating, camping and fishing for locals and visitors from outside the area.

### Hunting

Area residents and visitors enjoy the many hunting seasons in the region for deer, antelope, pheasant, and ducks. Public hunting lands exist throughout the county.

Adding to the hunting experience is Real Western Wings, located 11 miles south of Kimball on Highway 71. For six months out of the year, Real Western Wings

provides controlled shooting where pheasant, chukar, and sharptail grouse can be hunted.

### Parks

Gotte Park and City Park in Kimball have everything needed for a picnic and an enjoyable day in the sunshine. Both parks have extensive playground facilities, shade,

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# Kimball, Nebraska

and picnic tables.

And this year, new playground equipment is being installed at City Park.

Gotte Park offers a Disc golf course, horseshoe pits, basketball courts, and sand volleyball courts, and hundreds of trees for shade. Other activities at Gotte Park include Church in the Park services and Movies in the Park on selected days.

Gotte Park extends to Sixth Street and includes the Kimball City Swimming Pool.

### Plains Historical Society

On a summer afternoon, the Plains Historical Society Museum in downtown Kimball is the perfect place to relax and discover some local history and culture of the High Plains. The historical society also occupies the historic 1920 Kimball County High School along the famous Lincoln Highway (Highway 30) on the east side of town.

### Walking Trail / Dog Park

A walking trail and dog park were recently built north of Interstate 80 in Kimball for anyone and everyone to stretch their legs and exercise their dogs.

### Nearby

Just 30 miles north of Kimball along Highway 71 in Banner County is Banner County Museum. The Banner County Museum exhibit includes a log schoolhouse where fourth-graders from many districts experience

an 1880s school day at Flowerfield School. The museum grounds have many original buildings. The museum also has old agricultural equipment, including a working steam tractor. Hours are Sunday afternoons from 2-5 during the summer.

Rounding out the amenities of Kimball County are the towns of Dix to the east and Bushnell to the west. Both towns are along the Lincoln Highway, boast outstanding parks and welcome visitors.

### Bus Service/Air Travel

If you need a lift in the southern Nebraska Panhandle, or perhaps a ride to the Denver and Scottsbluff airports for domestic or international travel, the local and regionally operating Kimball County Transit Service has you covered.

Growing KCTS serves riders throughout the Kimball area and offers lines north to Scottsbluff in Nebraska; south to Fort Morgan and Denver in Colorado; east to Sidney and Chappell in Nebraska; and west to Pine Bluffs and Cheyenne in Wyoming.

For more on how KCTS can get you around, call 308-235-0262 or visit [ridekcts.com](http://ridekcts.com).

### Other Attractions

The Kimball area has much more to offer visitors and those passing through. See the list of attractions, activities and events on the inside front cover of this travel guide.

## VISITING KIMBALL ISN'T VISITING KIMBALL WITHOUT THE ...

# Western Nebraska Observer

When visiting Kimball, pick up a copy of the Observer,  
Kimball's award-winning hometown paper, to make the most of your visit.  
Available at stores all around town.

- ✓ ***For things to do***, check out the Observer's Community Calendar.
- ✓ ***For local services you want***, browse through the Observer's Business Directory.
- ✓ ***Get more ideas*** from the Observer's many local stories and ads.
- ✓ ***To attend the church of your choice***, see the Observer's Church Directory for times.
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[westernnebraskaobserver.net](http://westernnebraskaobserver.net)  
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# High Plains Adventures 2024

## Bushnell, Nebraska

**B**ushnell, Nebraska was established on the Lincoln Highway previously known as Highway 30 in 1867. Bushnell's history shows it was the first town in Nebraska on Highway 30.

As one goes back in time, and checks out this quaint little town, carrying its history from back in the day, they would feel the time traveling as they enter Bushnell. Once over the railroad tracks, the town still has dirt roads throughout.

Bushnell is located just nine miles from the Wyoming border and just fifteen miles from the Colorado border to the south. It is just 12 miles from Kimball, Nebraska and is in Kimball County. It is named after Cornelius Scranton Bushnell, the Union Pacific Railroad director, who was a major figure in the development of the ironclads during the Civil War.

Being the first town on Highway 30 isn't the only first Bushnell can boast about. Thirteen years after its establishment as a town, Bushnell became the first depot. This depot was a box car on the south side of the mainline railway. There was an "Eclipse" windmill built with a 20-foot diameter wooden wheel, that provided water for the locomotives. This windmill was also equipped with a gas engine to provide the water tower full if there wasn't enough wind.

In 1886, James Newell was named postmaster, and also built the first building in around 1887, housing a general store. During this time, the town of Bushnell



was asked to change its name. Many felt it sounded too much like Rushville. The town chose the name Orkney, which was a name used for the eastern part of the village of Bushnell.

As the years passed, the stops in Bushnell came to a stop, the depot station had been abandoned, and the depot agent was pulled and sent to Omaha. It was during this time the post office went back to the name of Bushnell in 1895 and it was permanently established as Bushnell in 1903.

Bushnell has had its ups and down, but it has remained a permanent town with several generations living there. One such tragedy occurred in 1916. A devastating train wreck happened with an eastbound freight train and an engine at the west switch. This occurred as the "Los Angeles Limited" entered the area crashing into the wreckage. Several cars and the engine went down the embankment. Two deaths and many injured were the result of this train wreck.

On behalf of "36 taxable residents" a petition seeking the incorporation of the village of Bushnell. The ordinances were formally recorded in 1918, making it official.

Industry and businesses came to Bushnell and their electric plant was established. Emery Howe in 1919 had a franchised electric plant which brought electricity to Bushnell. Originally only operating from nine to noon for washing and ironing. In 1920, twenty four hour service became available.

Bushnell joined in on the telephone service in 1914 with the Bushnell Telephone Company as a partnership and was later a corporation with the switchboard in George Hammond's residence, where his wife Maude was the operator. It was sold in the late 1950s to Panhandle Telephone Company and dial phones were installed.

Many of the original homes built by a man named "Shockey" are still standing and being lived in. This goes with the town hosting a bank, general and specialty stores, a drug store with a great soda fountain, a grain elevator, cream station, pool hall, cafes and the Reed Hotel. There were several churches as well, with the first one built in 1914 by the Presbyterians.

Population has varied from 137 to 757 and today it is around 125.

Bushnell holds an annual Bushnell Day and will be happening on August 19, 2023. A parade through town starts the events off, with games for kids, a cornhole tournament, a hog roast and more.



# High Plains Adventures

INTERSTATE 80

## 2024

### Pine Bluffs, Wyoming



**P**ine Bluffs boasts small town charm and big-time vistas. Tucked into the lower southeast corner of Wyoming, the town of Pine Bluffs is located just off Interstate 80, 40 miles east of Cheyenne, the gateway to Wyoming from the east. The picturesque bluffs frame this small community of approximately 1,150 area residents and there are several unique attractions exclusive to the town.

In 1868, Pine Bluffs (then known as Rock Ranch) consisted only of a tent, slab shack and a shed. In 1884 the town became the largest cattle shipping point on the Union Pacific Railroad, nicknamed the “Frontier Crossroads”. By the early 1900s Pine Bluffs was a well-known town, hailed as the best-lit city of its size in the nation.

Today, Pine Bluffs shines on as a Wyoming gem, and we invite you to stop and visit. Year around we have our beautiful Bluffs Recreation Area with hiking/biking trails and three-disc golf courses, a beginner (Pinecone Course), intermediate (Prairie Course) and advanced (Canyon Course) course, something for every disc golf enthusiast!

Pine Bluffs is home to an amazing Veterans Memorial

and Community Plaza located on Main Street. Pine Bluffs acknowledges and pays tribute to the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces with an “America the Beautiful” mural, “Tribute to America’s Fallen Heroes” mural, four bronze sculptures depicting branches of U.S. military, flags, and an enclosed bronzed Fallen Soldier Battle Cross. A bench in the plaza pays tribute to the final military branch, the Coast Guard. Pine Bluffs has an active American Legion, The Donald Eisenhower American Legion Post 60, and each Saturday morning they host breakfast at Post 60 and all are welcome!

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic Pine Bluffs High School is open year around and has been recognized for its architectural and historical significance. The most distinctive element of the building is the unique dome over the gymnasium constructed from poured concrete and a bank of skylights that cover the ceiling. The 1930 geometric shapes and floral designs that were hand painted on the concrete beams and lights that encircle the domes ceiling have been restored. Located on Elm Street, the Historice Pine Bluffs welcomes visitors during the week.

# WELCOME

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**Pine Bluffs is a full-service, family friendly community with all the essentials you may need and numerous attractions that might pique your interest! Stop, visit, stay a while, and enjoy all we have to offer!**

**Where to Eat :** Subway • Estela’s • Sadie’s Café • Currie’s Family Dining • Bluffs Bakery & Coffee

**Bars & Saloons:** Knotty Pine Saloon • Pine Bowl Bar & Grill • Pine Bluffs Distilling

**Where to Stay:** The Cobblestone Inn & Suites • Pine Bluffs RV Park • Diamond Bar O Ranch Airbnb

**Year Around Sights and Activities:** Veteran’s Memorial Plaza • Our Lady of Peace Shrine • Pine Bluffs Historic High School • Bluffs Recreation Area • The Canyon, Prairie, and Pinecone Disc Golf Courses at Leaning Rock • Pine Bluffs Rest Area Interpretive Nature Trails • Pine Bowl • Pine Bluffs Distilling/Wyoming Malting Facility

**Parks:** City Park, Pioneer Park • Reher Park • Texas Trail Park

**Seasonal Sights and Activities:** Texas Trail Museum • Pine Bluffs Archeological Dig Site • Pine Bluffs Outdoor Swimming Pool • Leaning Rock Golf Course

**Traveler Services:** Exxon • Sinclair Truck Stop • Bluffs Car Care Center • Sinclair Auto Repair Shop • Main Street Laundry

**Shopping:** Texas Trail Market • Dollar Store • Pine Bluffs Auto Parts • Hidden Treasures • The Beauty Box

**Senior & Veterans Services:** Pine Bluffs Senior Center • Donald Eisenhower American Legion Post 60




# Pine Bluffs, Wyoming

Historic Pine Bluffs High School welcomes visitors during the week.

Located on the east side of town, is Our Lady of Peace Shrine. The Shrine was erected in 1998. Weighing 180 tons, this 30-foot-tall statue of Mary is the largest statue in Wyoming. Sculptor Robert Fida took 22 months to complete the work, which was commissioned by Ted and Marjorie Trefren of Cheyenne. It is one of the largest Marian statues and memorials in the United States.

Memorial Day through Labor Day you can visit the "Windows on the Past" Archaeological Dig site and Texas Trail Museum to learn about the Native occupation and the early cowboys and homesteaders of this area rich in history. The museum has several displays of antique farming equipment, the first schoolhouse in Laramie County, a Union Pacific caboose, two diesel-fired generators which helped to make the early 1900s Pine Bluffs the best-lit city of its size in the nation.

Warmer weather also brings more outdoor activities to enjoy here in Pine Bluffs with the Leaning Rock Golf Course, a uniquely designed 9-hole, 32 par ball golf course, and our public outdoor pool, open 7 days a week. Our City Park located on Main Street is a great place to take the kids to play and enjoy a picnic lunch in one of two shelters complete with restroom facilities and picnic tables.

Pine Bluffs hosts an annual town celebration called Pine Bluffs Trail Days, held the first weekend in August. The celebration begins with a melodrama and street dance, and continues with a parade, 5k, a teenage rodeo, barbeque in the park, vendors, car show, horseshoe tournament, softball tournament and ends with a popular coed mud volleyball tournament on Sunday. The celebration truly has something for everyone!

Another annual celebration we have is held the last Saturday in September and is amply named the "End of the Trail" Kite Festival held up on top of the bluffs in the Bluffs Recreation Area, a fantastic place to fly kites in our famous Wyoming wind!

While passing through, if you crave some tasty meals or snacks, Pine Bluffs has several options from which to choose, Bluffs Bakery and Curries Dining, Estela's, Sadie's Café, and Subway.

If you wish to wet your whistle, the Knotty Pine Saloon serves up some of your favorite beer, wine, and spirits, along with fresh Angus burgers, hot wings, and appetizers. They also have a drive-through package liquor option if you want to take something home.

Speaking of spirits, how about visiting Wyoming Malting Company/Pine Bluffs Distilling who specialize in locally made

malts and spirits from locally grown barley, corn, wheat, and rye. How about a taste and possibly a tour? Sound fun? Children are welcome.

The Pine Bluffs Distilling is locally owned and operated and uses local farmers for their grains. They produce bourbon, whiskey, vodka, and gin. There are tours available to see the process of making the products. This year two international awards were received for their Pale Malt and Pale Ale. Remodeling has taken place this year to better represent their products.

Pine Bluffs Distilling helps throughout the year with different events. There is the annual Corgi Derby held the first weekend of May. This event raises money to help support the Cheyenne Animal Shelter. Corgi's race to get bragging rights of being the fastest dog around. Pine Bluffs Distilling also supports Bar Bucks for the Laramie County Christmas Basket program. Chad Brown, owner of Pine Bluffs Distilling feels that the community supports us, we need to support them. He is thankful for all.

Pine Bluffs Distilling will occasionally book bands performing on the weekends and have food trucks on hand for great food. Pine Bluffs Distilling is a great venue for weddings, birthday parties, and other events. Check them out on Facebook for the listing of the upcoming events, or you can contact them at (307) 245-3000.

Want to throw in a little bowling with your brew? Check out Pine Bowl, where you can bowl, eat, and drink. This eight-lane alley and bar has been serving the area since February 1963.

Our town wouldn't be a full-service community without our very own Texas Trail Market grocery store, or the new Dollar General on

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# Pine Bluffs, Wyoming

Parsons and Hwy 30. Everything you need for a home-cooked meal or grilling at the campground can be found at our friendly markets!

The newest addition to our town is the Cobblestone Inn & Suites that opened in March 2021. For information, please go to [www.staycobblestone.com](http://www.staycobblestone.com).

Pine Bluffs focuses on family and quality of life, and we welcome you to come visit and stay a while. For more information on Pine Bluffs please visit us at [www.pinebluffswy.gov](http://www.pinebluffswy.gov) or call 307-245-3746.

## Tour of Windows on the Past

By **Karen Lipska**  
*Pine Bluffs Post*

The history and site of the archaeology project is a place to explore in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming.

The Tour of Windows on the Past is a hidden treasure but it gives insight to the archaeology project that started in the 1980's. The dig site is located just off I-80 in the bluffs and the building contains items founded by Dr. Charles Reher along with his team. The history of the area and Pine Bluffs is in the past throughout the building.

This Archaeology project was started by Dr. Reher with the cooperation of the University of Wyoming and the Town of Pine Bluffs. He was a Director of the University of Wyoming Anthropology Museum and Anthropology department archaeology field school program and much more at that time. Dr. Reher grew up in Pine Bluffs and he thought that the bluffs would be



Visitors to the Windows on the Past are given a history lesson on the items in the museum.

a perfect place to do field study. The site is 300 acres on top of the bluffs. They discovered there were 22 different occupational levels dating back 10,000 years. Throughout the years of discovery and investigation the team uncovered a lot of history. If you love history this place will take you back in time. It shows what Indians were in the area and in Pine Bluffs. It goes through the natural resources in the area, climate and eco zones throughout time. In the tour of Windows on the Past it shows the significant development that led to the town of Pine Bluffs. There are displays of artifacts and pictures of the different eras. The building houses a teepee along with flag markers showing where the artifacts were found. A tour guide will help you along the journey of historical learning. If you take a walk on the walkway, there are wild flowers and a view to see the valley, and the bluffs. This hidden treasure will put a person in awe about the area history.

The dig site is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There are two ways to access the site, across from the rest area there are steps to a concrete walkway, hang a right, leading up into the bluffs. The best and most picturesque way to go. A 10 to 15 minute walk with views as far as the eye can see. Or you can exit I-80 at exit 401 and head North on to Parsons Street. Turn left on Highway 30 and follow to Muddy Creek Drive, past the underpass. Turn left and go past Laramie County Weed and Pest. Follow the signs to the dig site on the left. The drive will take approximately five minutes. So, stop by and learn a little history about this fair town. Also for stiff and weary travelers it's a perfect place to stretch the legs and rejuvenate the spirit.

Welcome to Pine Bluffs!



**Pine Bluffs Distilling, locally owned and operated and uses local farmers for their grains. They produce bourbon, whiskey, vodka, and gin. There are tours available to see the process of making the products.**

**Pine Bluffs Distilling is a great venue for weddings, birthday parties, and other events. Check them out on Facebook for the listing of the upcoming events, or you can contact them at (307) 245-3000.**



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# High Plains Adventures 2024

## Burns, Wyoming



**B**urns like many small towns along the railroad line, was referred to as a “siding” (a low-speed track section used for slower or stopped trains) and housed a water tank used to water the steam engines along their route.

The town would become the center of the Golden Prairie District. This was promoted by the Federal Land and Securities Company and James R. Carpenter, which was formed in 1905.

Burns was built as a German Lutheran settlement known as New Berlin. Later on it was platted on the map as Burns in 1907. The original settlers who were of German ancestry attempted to name Burns the Town of Luther, in honor of Martin Luther, but it was not achieved.

The history of Burns, shows it was named after J. J. Burns, who worked for Union Pacific. He started out as a telegrapher, and worked his way up to operator, assistant store keeper and ended up as a purchasing agent for Union Pacific.

Burns was growing, and by 1908, Burns had a newspaper, ‘The Golden Prairie Herald’. It was renamed at a later date to the Burns Herald. Land was sold, and settlers moved in. Leasing with the option to buy was one way James R. Carpenter sold land.

After the “dry farming” boom came to an end in 1922, the Federal Land & Securities Company was out of business. This did not stop farmers in the area, and the farming of grain is still important in the area.

As the population grew, more businesses came in. In 1910, Burns had a post office, and Union Pacific Railroad built a depot. By 1919, Burns had two banks as well - Burns State Bank and Farmers State Bank. Growth would continue and by 1920, Burns had a population of 300.

Burns today, has a population of 351. The town is governed by a mayor and town council. Present mayor is James “Okie” Clark. Council members are: Ralph Bartels, Joseph Nicholson, Judy Johnstone and Rick Lakin.

The Town of Burns is making a name for itself, and a good one to boot! They are getting more active every year. Although the town has been through changes throughout history, it is still standing strong. They call the town a bedroom community to Cheyenne. People live in Burns but many of them work and shop in Cheyenne. During the last few years Burns has been adding more neighborhoods. The town is also growing with small businesses.

There are two restaurants that help feed the body and maybe even the soul. They are the Rustic Plate and The Rustic Diner. This community may be small but there are activities during the week for the kids to do. The Burns Branch Library has a reading program and other events during the week for all ages. The Burns Youth League has



KYLE OSTERMAN

**Liberty Park in Burns was the brainchild of past councilman Harvey Humphrey. It houses a piece of the World Trade Center honoring those who perished on September 11, 2001.**

sports year round for the kids to participate. Also there are different clinics for the kids to fine tune their skills in the different sports that are offered. For adults and family the Burns Lions Club puts on different events throughout the year from dances, the Burns Day celebration, and helping to improve the community. If someone would like to volunteer, on Wednesday afternoons there is a food pantry that always needs help along with “The Room” that gives out free items to people that needs them. They are open during the week.

The town has two parks that can be enjoyed by everyone whether you want to run around and play or just sit in the shade and relax. Close to town hall there are swings sets and other playground equipment that the kids can use. Once a year the town has an all town garage sale in June. The Burns Day Celebration is a once a year event, and one to attend for a great time. The day begins at 7:00 a.m. and carries on through 7:00 p.m. This year the the special day falls on June 8th. This town is full of energy, spirit and passion to show the world that Burns is a great place to visit.

# High Plains Adventures 2024

INTERSTATE  
80

## Cheyenne, Wyoming



If you want to experience a narrated historic tour of Cheyenne, the Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley is the way to go. Then there is the retired Big Boy Steam engine No. 4004, an attraction at Holliday Park in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Wyoming's capital city embodies the spirit of the Old West. It's considered the nation's rodeo and railroad capital and is home to a variety of museums, historic hotels and mansions, a collection of steam engines, western-themed attractions and shopping, resorts and ranches.

But there is more to this iconic destination than just boots and spurs. With a thriving art community, soft adventure opportunities nearby and an eclectic selection of shopping and dining options, Cheyenne offers travelers an experience that is truly unique.

**Cheyenne Frontier Days:** Known as "The Daddy of 'Em All," Cheyenne Frontier Days is the world's largest outdoor rodeo and Western celebration.

Started in 1897, it features 10 days of the world's best PRCA rodeo action – from bull riding and barrel racing, to steer wrestling and team roping. Frontier Days includes concerts, chuckwagon cookoff, parades, carnival rides and shows, pancake breakfast and more.

In 2024, Frontier Days will run from July 19-28.

**Cheyenne Depot/Depot Museum:** The Cheyenne Depot, formerly known as the Union Pacific Depot, was built from 1886 to 1887. Known as one of the most beautiful railroad stations in North America, it is one of the last of the grand 19th century depots remaining from the transcontinental railroad.

Today, the Cheyenne Depot is home to the Cheyenne Visitor Center, Shadows Pub and Grill and the Cheyenne Depot Museum. The museum's exhibits and interactive displays showcase the history and romance of the railroad.

**The Downtown Cheyenne Experience:** Visitors wanting to incorporate a touch of the West into their home can swing by Wyoming Home, which feature western and Wyoming-themed home furnishings.

**Curt Gowdy State Park/Vedauwoo Recreation Area:** Curt Gowdy State Park lies amongst the picturesque foothills of the Laramie Mountains.

The area features granite towers, rocky soils and timbered slopes. Two small reservoirs form the heart of Curt Gowdy State Park. Granite Reservoir, the larger of the two, is an excellent base for water sports as well as rainbow trout and kokanee salmon fishing.

Visitors can also visit the ancient rock formations at Vedauwoo Recreation Area, which allows for beautiful sightseeing, hiking, camping and mountain biking.

**Big Boy Steam Engine:** Even in retirement, Old Number 4004 remains an imposing sight. Visitors can see Big Boy, the world's largest steam locomotive, year-round in Holliday Park. Big Boy is one of eight such remaining locomotives on display in the U.S.

**Wyoming State Capitol/State Museum:** A National Historic Landmark, the Wyoming State Capitol Building dominates the Cheyenne skyline.

Historically, it is one of the most important buildings in the state (its cornerstone was laid in 1887). The Wyoming State Museum houses artifacts and collections showcasing Wyoming's history.

**Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley:** For a fully narrated historic tour of Cheyenne, the trolley operates May through September. Ghost tours are offered in October and Christmas Lights tours in December.

**Cheyenne Botanic Gardens:** An oasis on the high plains, specialty areas include a nationally-recognized inspirational Peace Garden, as well as the Discovery Pond and educational wetland area. Located in Lions Park, children can explore the solar-powered conservatory and exterior gardens.

New to the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is the Paul Smith Children's Village, which showcases and interprets sustain-

# Cheyenne, Wyoming



A treasure in the Botanic Gardens is the Crevice Garden that changes blooms almost daily.

able systems for food production and preparation, water quality, energy production, habitation and cultural fulfillment.

Bit-O-Wyo Ranch: A one-of-a-kind Western experience waits during the summer months.

Daily offerings include scenic trail rides escorted by the ranch's experienced wranglers. Friday and Saturday evenings bring a Horse Barn Cowboy Dinner Show featuring the Bit-O-Wyo Blue Water Cowboy Band and the Bit-O-Wyo Horses.

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Immerse yourself in the aromas of the Magic City's legendary farm-to-table flavors. Stroll through the historic Cheyenne Depot Plaza as artists downtown create colorful murals all around you. Shop for chic bison leathers in bright boutiques, where discoveries await around every corner. Only in Cheyenne does adventure shine right outside your window.



Cheyenne.org

# High Plains Adventures 2024



## Golf Course Directory



Situated on the shores of Lake McConaughy, Bayside Golf Club is a challenge suitable for golfers of all skill levels.

### COLORADO

#### Brush Municipal Golf Course

2301 Mill St.  
Brush, CO 80723  
peeteysparkgolf.com  
(970) 842-5470

#### F & H Golf Course

43355 County Rd. 30  
Fleming, CO 80728  
facebook.com/fandhgolf  
(970) 774-6362

#### Quail Dunes Golf Course

17586 County Road T5  
Fort Morgan Colorado  
80701  
quaildunes.com  
(970) 867-5990

#### Riverview Golf Course

13064 County Rd. 370  
Sterling, CO 80751  
www.golfsterling.com  
(970) 522-3035

#### Sedgwick County Golf Course

State Hwy 11  
Julesburg, CO 80737  
(970) 474-3574

#### Sky Ranch Golf Course

17408 Hwy 14  
Sterling, CO 80751  
www.skyranchgc.com  
(970) 522-2836

### NEBRASKA

#### Skyview Golf Course

2613 County Rd. 57  
Alliance, NE 69301  
facebook.com/skyviewgc  
(308) 762-1446

#### Chimney Rock Golf Course

7366 Road 108  
Bayard, NE 69334  
facebook.com/CRGC1  
(308) 586-1606

#### Courthouse & Jail Rock Golf Course

8565 Hwy 88  
Bridgeport, NE 69336  
golfterocks.com  
(308) 262-9925

#### Bayside Golf Course

865 Lakeview W. Rd.  
Brule, NE 69127  
baysidegolf.com  
(308) 287-4653

#### Chappell Golf Course

1240 Rd. 167  
Chappell, NE 69129  
chappellne.org  
(308) 874-2729

#### Cozad Country Club

100 Country Club Rd.  
Cozad, NE 69130  
g o l f c o z a d . c o m  
(308) 784-2585

#### Monument Shadows Golf Course

2550 Clubhouse Dr.  
Gering, NE 69341  
monumentshadows.com  
(308) 635-2277

#### Wild Horse Golf Course

40950 Rd. 768  
Gothenburg, NE 69138  
www.playwildhorse.com  
(308) 537-7700

#### Four Winds Golf Course

Box 22, East Hwy 30  
Kimball, NE 69145  
(308) 235-4241  
www.kimballne.org

#### Scenic Knolls Golf Course

20548 Hwy 29  
Mitchell, NE 69357  
www.mitchellcity.net  
(308) 623-2468

#### Rolling Greens Golf Club

520 Railroad St.  
Morrill, NE 69358  
facebook.com/morrillgolf  
(308) 247-2817

#### Indian Meadows Golf Course

2746 W. Walker Rd.  
North Platte, NE 69101  
indianmeadowsgolfcourse.com  
(308) 532-6955

#### Lake Maloney Golf Course

608 Birdie Ln  
North Platte, NE 69101  
(308) 532-9998

#### River's Edge Golf Club

1008 W. 18th St.  
North Platte, NE 69101  
www.golfriversedgenp.com  
(308) 532-7550  
golfriversedgenp.com

#### Westwind Country Club

359 Rd. East 85  
Ogallala, NE 69153  
golfingnebraska.com  
(308) 284-4358

#### Prairie Pines Golf Course

402 Prairie Pine Dr.  
Potter, NE 69156  
facebook/prairiepinesne/  
(308) 879-4469

#### Hillside Golf Course

2616 Hillside Dr.  
Sidney, NE 69162  
hillsidegolfcourse.com  
(308) 254-2311

#### Riverview Golf & Country Club

100928 County Rd. 19  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
riverviewgolfcoursesb.com  
(308) 635-1555

#### Scottsbluff Country Club

5014 Avenue I  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
scottsbluffcountryclub.com  
(308) 635-8297

#### Oregon Trail Golf Course

31200 W. Tower Rd  
Sutherland, NE 69165  
villageofsutherland.com  
(308) 386-4653



# Golf Course Directory

## WYOMING

### Airport Golf Course

4801 Central Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
airportgolfclub.com  
(800) 638-3700

### Cheyenne Country Club

800 Stinner Rd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
cheyennecountryclub.com  
(307) 637-2230

### Little America Resort & Golf

2800 W. Lincolnway  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
littleamerica.com/golf-course/  
(800) 634-2771

### Leaning Rock Golf Course

1200 South Beech  
Pine Bluffs, WY 82082  
pinebluffswy.gov  
(307) 245-3746

### Kingham Prairie View Golf Club

3601 Windmill Rd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
www.airportgolfclub.com  
(307) 637-6420



## NEBRASKA

### Box Butte General Hospital

2101 Box Butte Ave.  
Alliance, NE 69301  
(308) 762-6660

### Kimball Health Services Clinic

505 S. Burg St.  
Kimball, NE 69145  
(308) 235-1966

### Cozad Community Hospital

300 E. 12th St.  
P.O. Box 108  
Cozad, NE 69130  
(308) 784-2261

### Ogallala Community Hospital

2601 N. Spruce St.  
Ogallala, NE 69153  
(308) 284-4011

### Regional West Medical Center

4021 Avenue B  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 635-3711

### Gothenburg Memorial Hospital

910 20th St.  
Gothenburg, NE 69138  
(308) 537-3661

### Sidney Regional Medical Center

1000 Pole Creek Crossing  
Sidney, NE 69162  
(308) 254-5825

### Great Plains Regional Medical Center

601 W. Leota  
North Platte, NE 69103  
(308) 696-8000

## WYOMING

### Behavioral Health Services

2600 E. 18th St.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 633-7370

### High Plains Surgical Center

2301 House Ave. Suite 200  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 635-7070

### Community Cancer Center

4116 Laramie St.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 634-0233

### Pine Bluffs Health Clinic

117 E. Fourth St.  
Pine Bluffs, WY 82001  
(307) 245-3666

### Cheyenne Healthcare Center

2700 E. 12th St.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 634-7986

### Veterans Affairs Medical Center

2360 E. Pershing Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 778-7550

### Cheyenne Regional Medical Center

214 E 23rd St.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 634-2273

# Church Directory

## NEBRASKA

**Chappell Assembly of God Church**  
1202 4th St., Chappell, NE  
(308) 874-3285

**Berea Lutheran Church**  
2874 NE-27, Chappell, NE  
(308) 874-2581

**Grace Community Fellowship**  
1740 Highway 30, Chappell, NE  
(308) 566-0227 or (308) 874-2250

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1318 2nd St., Chappell, NE  
(308) 874-3226

**Solid Rock Bible Church**  
602 3rd St, Chappell, NE  
www.solidrockbible.com

**St. Joseph's Church**  
1079 2nd St., Chappell, NE  
(308) 874-3407

**United Methodist Church**  
346 Babcock Ave., Chappell, NE  
(308) 874-2931

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
650 Fifth St., Chappell, NE  
(308) 874-2533

**First Baptist Church**  
601 S Washington St., Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2285

**First English Lutheran ELCA Church**  
501 S Webster St., Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2238

**First United Presbyterian Church**  
6007 W 7th St., Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-3044

**Kimball Baptist Fellowship Church**  
507 S Oak St., Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2204

**Kimball Evangelical Free**  
101S Walnut, Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-4376

**Kingdom Hall Of Jehovah's Witnesses**  
910 S. Chestnut, Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2125

**New Hope Assembly Of God**  
413 E. 3rd, Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2854

**Presbyterian Church**  
Seventh & Cedar St. S, Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-3044

**St. John's Lutheran**  
601 S. Locust, Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2582

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
511 S. Howard, Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2162

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
305 E Fourth St., Kimball, NE  
(308) 235-2320

**Prairie West Church**  
Church ELCA/UMC  
904 Sherman, Potter, NE  
(308) 879-4583

**Dix Bible Church**  
612 Hurrum St., Potter, NE  
(308) 682-5325

**St. Paul's Lutheran**  
Church Of Potter  
4450 Rd 89, Potter, NE  
(308) 879-4437

**Christian Life Center**  
1545 King St., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-7333

**Beacon Of Light Church**  
540 18th Ave. Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-2226

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
1129 10th Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-4098

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
1205 10th Ave. Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-2166

**Church Of Christ**  
2651 11th St. Sidney, NE  
(308) 339-0856

**Church Of the Nazarene**  
1445 Jackson St., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-4519

**Evangelical Free Church**  
2763 11th Ave., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-6162

**First Baptist Church**  
1020 17th Ave., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-3621

**First Christian Church**  
940 13th Ave., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-485

**First United Methodist Church**  
2622 11th Ave., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-4505

**Highlands Reformed Presbyterian Church**  
620 Osage St., Sidney, NE  
(308) 249-5305

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
San Marino & Lodgepole  
Sidney, NE (308) 254-3124

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
2305 San Marino Rd, Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-3124

**Light Memorial Presbyterian**  
1345 Linden, Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-5675

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
2393 Maple St., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-6135

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church**  
1039 14 Ave. Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-2828

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod  
15th & Maple St. Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-3144

**Sidney Foursquare Gospel Church**  
1544 Elm St. Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-6014

**The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints**  
Toledo & Keller Drive Sidney, NE  
(308) 235-3811

**The Well**  
432 20th Ave. Sidney, NE  
(308) 430-8579

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod  
12108 Road 6 Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-3062

**Westside Church of Christ Church**  
1745 Linden St., Sidney, NE  
(308) 254-4362

## WYOMING

**Albin Baptist Church**  
315 Cheyenne Ave. Albin, WY  
(307) 246-3254

**St. Joseph's Mission Church**  
Intersection Of State Highways 215 & 216, Albin, WY  
(307) 245-3761

**Blessed Hope Baptist Church**  
327 S. Main, Burns, WY  
(307) 547-2383

**Burns Presbyterian Church**  
140 S. Wyoming, Burns, WY  
(307) 547-3734

**Evangelical Wesleyan Church**  
321 W. First St., Burns, WY  
(307) 547-2276

**Golden Prairie Baptist Church**  
4996 Road 226 Burns, WY  
(307) 246-3293

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
201 Washington Ave., Burns, WY  
(308) 235-2582

**Oasis Church – Burns Town Complex North Building**  
327 Main St., Burns, WY  
(970) 290-1742

**Blessed Hope Baptist Church**  
1477 Co. Rd. 143, Hillsdale, WY  
(307) 547-2383

**Hillsdale United Methodist Church**  
1474 Marley Ave., Hillsdale, WY  
(307) 760-7579

**Crossroads Community Church**  
418 Pine St., Pine Bluffs, WY  
(307) 245-3534

**Grace English Lutheran Church**  
Corner Of Eighth St. & Miller  
Pine Bluffs, WY (307) 245-3390

**Lighthouse Assembly Of God**  
117 W. Fifth St., Pine Bluffs, WY  
(307) 245-3822

**Pine Bluffs Baptist Church**  
418 Pine St., Pine Bluffs, WY  
(307) 245-3534

**Pine Bluffs Heritage Center**  
607 Elm St. Pine Bluffs, WY  
(307) 214-0002/(307) 631-5571

**Pine Bluffs United Methodist**  
600 Main St. Pine Bluffs, WY  
(307) 245-3781

**St. Paul's Catholic Church**  
501 E. Fourth St. Pine Bluffs, WY  
(307) 245-3761

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