

Explore Valentine & Cherry County



Free Travel Guide &

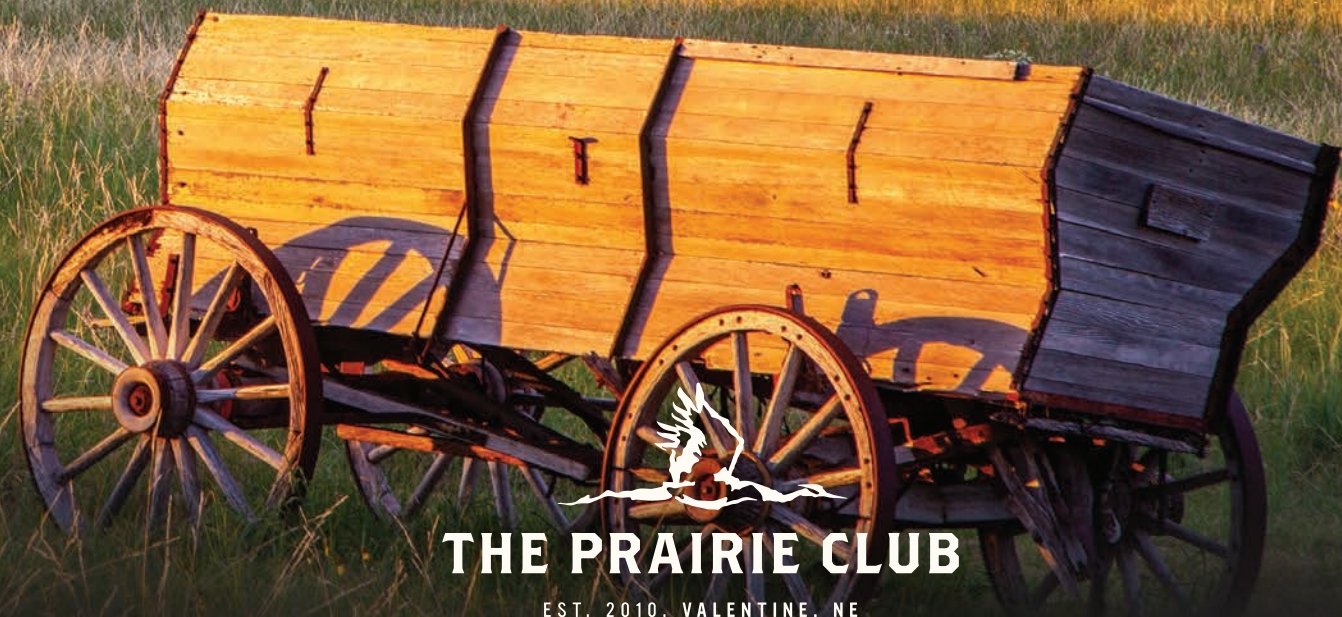


A WORLD-CLASS DESTINATION, JUST A JAUNT DOWN HIGHWAY 97

SITTING ALONG THE RIM OF THE SNAKE RIVER CANYON SEVENTEEN MILES SOUTHWEST OF VALENTINE, NEBRASKA, THE PRAIRIE CLUB HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST GOLF DESTINATIONS FOUND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

COMPLETE WITH TWO CHAMPIONSHIP 18-HOLE GOLF COURSES, A 10-HOLE SHORT COURSE, 71 COMFORTABLY APPOINTED ROOMS ON LOCATION, AND A NEBRASKA-INSPIRED DINING EXPERIENCE IT IS UNDISPUTEDLY A BUCKET-LIST RESORT.

THIS IS AS PURE AS GOLF GETS.



THE PRAIRIE CLUB

EST. 2010. VALENTINE, NE

88897 STATE HIGHWAY 97 • VALENTINE, NEBRASKA • 69201

THEPRAIRIECLUB.COM | (844) 610 0890



Welcome to the 2nd Annual Cherry County Passport Program!

April 15th - October 15th

ARE YOU **DREAMING** ABOUT A CHERRY COUNTY ADVENTURE!
TAKE THIS PASSPORT AS YOUR GUIDE ACROSS THE COUNTY!
WE HOPE THAT WITH EACH TURN OF THE PAGE OF YOUR EXPLORE VALENTINE MAGAZINE, YOU FIND ANOTHER REASON TO COME VISIT CHERRY COUNTY!

Cherry County is HUGE, so you had better make a plan!
Pick your dates. Map out your itinerary. Book your outfitters and lodging.
Pack your bags! Then grab your Cherry County passport and get in the car!

Stop in to the Valentine Visitor Center!



Get your first official stamp from us!



239 S. Main Street in Valentine



**Collect Stamps!
Win prizes!
Have an Adventure!
See All Details on page 49!**

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Photo courtesy of Shyloe Battershaw

Welcome to the Sandhills of Cherry County



NG&P photo

- The county is named after Lt. Samuel A. Cherry
- It is the largest county in the state w/over 6,000 sq. miles
- Cherry County is larger than the state of Connecticut
- It has the largest sand dune formations in the western hemisphere



Passport Stop #2 *Trade Winds* MOTEL

1009 East Highway 20
Valentine, NE 69201
402-376-1600

← Reservations Only: 888-376-1601 →
← www.tradewindslodge.com →

- Last Locally Owned Motel
- #1 Rated in Area
- In Room Coffee, Micro, & Fridge
- Free Wireless Internet
- Large Grounds w/ Security Cameras
- Pet Friendly Rooms
- Indoor Fish/Fowl Cleaning & Freezer



Check us out on
 TripAdvisor

2

STAMP
HERE



Passport Stop #3

SCREENPRINTING
OUTBACK
EMBROIDERY

Valentine, Ne & Niobrara River
SOUVENIRS - Shirts, Hats, Cups, More
Banners & Signs of all Kinds
All - CUSTOM MADE TO ORDER!

208 E 1st St, Valentine, NE
Hours: 8-5 M-F / 9-Noon Sat
402-376-1190



www.outbackvalentine.com

Coupon: 10% off Valentine and Badger
shirt designs and souvenirs

3

STAMP
HERE

- Magnificent, easy flowing, family friendly river
- Ranked as one of the nation's best canoeing rivers
- Designated as a National Scenic River in 1991
- Spring fed tributaries provide the river with reliable water levels year round
- Tens of thousands of annual floaters
- Want a quiet float? Try to come in the spring or late fall
- Book a trip for earlier in the week...Wednesday or Thursday, perhaps
- Great campgrounds along the river - Tent, RV, Cabins (see page 46)



Beauty - Any Season

Niobrara National Scenic River

- 76 miles of free flowing water
- Endless recreational activities on and off the water
- Over 200 waterfalls
- Extraordinary paleontological deposits
- Geologic formations
- Diverse animals and plants inhabit the area!
- Hybrid Aspen trees which are remnants of the Ice Age!
- 6 different ecosystems meet at the banks



Passport Stop #4

NIOBRARA NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER



Step inside the NPS Visitor Center to learn more about the Niobrara River Valley, it's ecosystems, habitat, and the history of the community surrounding the river!

- Enjoy an Award Winning Short Film & Get your Stamp!
- See the Exhibits
- Shop their store full of One of a Kind Items
- Experience Fun and Educational Junior Ranger Activities

Visitor Center Hours:
8:30-4:30 DAILY after Memorial Day
(Mon-Fri only Labor Day - Memorial Day)

www.nps.gov/niob

214 W US Highway 20
402-376-1901



Ft. Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge



- Located five miles east of Valentine on Highway 12
- Fort Niobrara was active from 1879 to 1906 and was used as a cavalry remount station until 1911
- It is now home to a herd of bison, and a prairie dog town
- A self guided driving tour will allow you to see these and much more on most occasions
- A beautiful three-quarter-mile hiking trail will take you by Fort Falls, one of the area's prettier waterfalls, and wind down along the scenic river
- Cornell Dam is located at the entrance of the refuge on the Niobrara River
- Built around 1915, Cornell Dam and its hydroelectric plant once provided electricity to Valentine.
- Just below the dam is a public launch site for visitors who want to float the National Scenic Niobrara River.

- Stop by the visitor center on the grounds for maps
- Inside are photos and a full history of the fort and a wide array of fossils and other information on the vast ecosystem of the area



Passport Stop #5



NIORRARA VALLEY VINEYARDS

Locally Handcrafted
Award Winning Wines

Regular hours are from May 1st to September 30th
Wed. - Sun. 2-7pm MT, 3-8pm CT.

402-823-4131 (off season by appointment only)

Niobrara Valley Vineyards

90256 State Spur 16F

1 1/4 mi South & 1 mi East of Nenzel



www.nvvsandhills.net

Homemade pizzas every Friday night
4-7 pm MT during our regular hours

5

STAMP
HERE



Passport Stop #6

Tubes - Canoes - Kayaks

Get away from it all and experience
the the beauty of the Niobrara

Trips seven days a week



It's not just a season...

....It's a lifestyle!

Book Online:

www.brewerscanoers.com



6

STAMP
HERE

Office Location:

433 East Hwy 20, Valentine

402-376-2046

Smith Falls State Park

- Smith Falls is a natural, spring fed waterfall that cascades down a rock face almost 70 ft high. Quite a unexpected sight in the middle of the sandhills
- Step under its splendor and let the cold, crisp water take your breath away. This is a welcome, and refreshing stopping point for those floating the river
- Smith Falls State Park's visitor center and camping area are on the other side of the Niobrara River and just few miles off of Highway 12
- A large walking tressel bridge spans the river giving park goers easy access to Smith Falls and the Jim MacAllister Trail
- The trails offer you many more surprises and leads you through the canyon up, to open prairie before you descend along the Niobrara River edge
- You will get an up-close view of all 6 ecosystems in one hike.



Passport Stop #7

90159 Smith Falls Rd

Center Hours: 9-4:30 / Falls - Daylight Hours

402-376-1306

www.outdoornebraska.gov/smithfalls



SMITH FALLS STATE PARK

Basic tent camping available on north side of the river only.

May 1st to September 30th - Book online!

Picnic tables - Restrooms - Pay Showers - Reservable Shelter

7

STAMP
HERE

JIM MACALLISTER
NATURE TRAIL



Valentine National Wildlife Refuge



- The native grass prairie and wetlands found here support a diversity of wildlife
- Home to over 270 species of birds
- Designated a Nebraska Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Audubon Society
- One of the Great Plains Top 50 Ecotourism Sites
- Numerous shallow lakes for fishing - perch, bluegill, bass, northern pike, bull frogs
- Open year round - Ice fishing doesn't get any better than in these crystal clear waters
- Hunting - deer, coyote, pheasant, dove, sharp tail grouse, prairie chicken, waterfowl
- Observation blinds open in the spring for prairie chicken and sharp tail grouse viewing
- No overnight camping or open fires. Daylight use only
- See website for more info, maps, all rules and regulations or call 402-376-3789

Passport Stop #8

Something new is coming!
 for a "mystery business" stamp!
 So secret - They won't even tell me!

Stop at this address

Manicures behind
 election. Brand name
 just to name a few!

Manicures
 Pedicures
 Tanning
 Sauna

Becky dba The Klothesline

218 N. Main Street
 Valentine, NE

HOU
 p
 1-F
 pm Sat

STAMP HERE

Passport Stop #9

Heartland Tubes

- Best Prices!
- Best Service!

ONE OF A KIND ADVENTURE!

Kick back on a tube and experience the award winning scenic Niobrara River!

Ask about our guided tours & MOONLIGHT TRIPS!

702 East C. Street
 Valentine, NE 402-389-1964

Coupon: \$5.00 off cooler tube with tube rental

HeartlandTubes.com

STAMP HERE

NEW! Autumn Trips Starting Sept. 2021!

Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest



- Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest sits on over 100,000 acres of land
- The area is more dunes, windmills and small water pockets, than actual "forest".
- Miles of multi-use trails weave through the Sandhills-used for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding
- One of the best places in the state for birdwatching, with hundreds of species spotted throughout the year
- Popular game species including white-tailed deer, antelope, and mule deer
- Steer Creek Campground is located on the west side of McKelvie and has over 20 RV sites
- Miles of hiking trails that take you into the surrounding Sandhills
- Dispersed camping throughout much of the forest.
- There are also a number of rivers and lakes in the area
- Merritt Reservoir is the most popular fishing spot in the forest
- You can also canoe and kayak on the Merritt Reservoir and on the near by National Scenic Niobrara River

Steer Creek Campground



Passport Stop #10

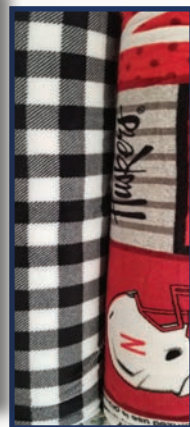
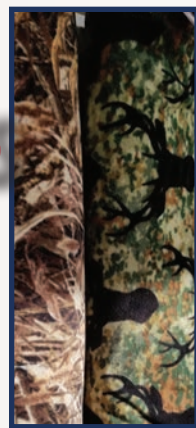
Country Fabric & Crafts

- Sew • Craft • Bead
- Quilt • Knit • Paint
- Crochet • Embroider

Featuring Baby Lock sewing, embroidery, quilting machines and sergers!

baby lock

Country Fabric & Crafts
148 North Main Street
Valentine 402-376-3544



10

STAMP
HERE

Find them on Facebook!

email: countryfab@gmail.com

Hours: Mon-Sat 9:00 - 6:00



Passport Stop #11

- Canoe
- Tube
- Kayak
- T-Shirts



- Camping
- Supplies
- Fuel
- Souvenirs

Outfitting the Niobrara for over 40 Years!

Get Back to Nature!

Everything you need - on or off the water!



Dryland Aquatics & Sparks Store

4115 Sparks Rd Sparks, NE
402-376-3119 or 1-800-337-3119
www.drylandaquatics.com
drylandaquatics@gmail.com

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STAMP
HERE

Merritt Reservoir



- Merritt Reservoir located in a picturesque valley of the Snake River 26 miles southwest of Valentine
- It has Nebraska's best fishing, boating and camping areas and is open year round
- Walleye, crappie and white bass have long been the favorites, but there are numerous other species including catfish, perch, bluegill, northern pike, large & small mouth bass, and even monster muske
- Merritt Trading Post is located at the North end of the main lake at the dam. Stop in for more fishing and hunting information, bait, ice, refreshments, fuel and anything else you may need or have forgotten. They also have several options for lodging and small boat and equipment rentals
- The area also has become recognized as having some of the darkest night skies in the region and perfect for star gazing
- The Nebraska Star Party calls Merritt home for it's annual star party each summer. You will find that much of Cherry County is perfect for star gazing, but there is something to be said for witnessing the milky way from atop the Snake River Campground area, in the still of a moonless night!



Passport Stop #12

Your one stop Travel Plaza.

Located at the intersection of Hwy 20 and Hwy 83 in the Heart City of Valentine and is a family owned business. The Travel Plaza was built in 1999 and remodeled in 2018. It offers a wide variety of items from your basic convenience store snacks and drinks to souvenirs. It also has a nice selection of beer, wine and liquor, as well as a great selection of supplies for trucks and has two showers available at all times.

Need to grab some food on the go while traveling? Check out the attached McDonald's that was also fully remodeled in 2018 and now features a double drive thru!



SpeedeeMart
101 W. HWY 20 Valentine, NE
402-376-2280



Passport Stop #13

Merritt Trading Post

- Cabins
- Convenience Store
- Bait, Tackle, Groceries
- Beer/Beverages, Ice
- Marine & Camping Supplies

Merritt's Calling...

www.MerrittTradingPost.com

- Facebook.com/MTPResort
- Instagram.com/MerrittTradingPost
- Twitter.com/MerrittTPost



photo courtesy of Stacy Bauer

402-376-3437
88337 State Hwy 97, Valentine 69201
25 Minutes S. of Valentine, on 97



Snake River Falls

- Among Nebraska's most spectacular waterfalls, Snake River Falls tumbles over a 54 foot wide ledge and flows 12 miles to the Niobrara River. When the Snake River is full, it is the largest waterfall in Nebraska by volume
- The waterfall is located 23 miles southwest of Valentine on Highway 97. Only 3 miles from Merritt Reservoir
- Because access to the falls is on private property, it is not well marked. Your turn will be on the west side of the road about a 1/4 of a mile after the canal crosses the highway. Watch for a large water tank and a few trees. This will be your cue to turn.
- You can view the falls from trails that will take you on both sides of the Snake Falls Sportsman's Club building.
- Admission is only \$1.00, and there is a pay box in front of the Sportsman's Club building

Please be respectful of the property when you visit.
We are privileged to be able to have this beautiful sight open to public access, and would appreciate every effort to adhere to all posted restrictions.
Thank You.



Passport Stop #14

RIVER TRIPS



Book Online!
@

outlawcanoe.com



**LITTLE
OUTLAW**

1005 East Hwy 20
Valentine, NE 402-376-1822

14

STAMP
HERE



Passport Stop #15

**Scotty's
RANGLAND FOODS**

**FINEST QUALITY BEEF IN TOWN!
DELI, SNACKS, ICE, BEVERAGES
LIQUOR, BEER, & WINE**

Your Full Service Grocery Store !

ScottysRanchlandFoods.com

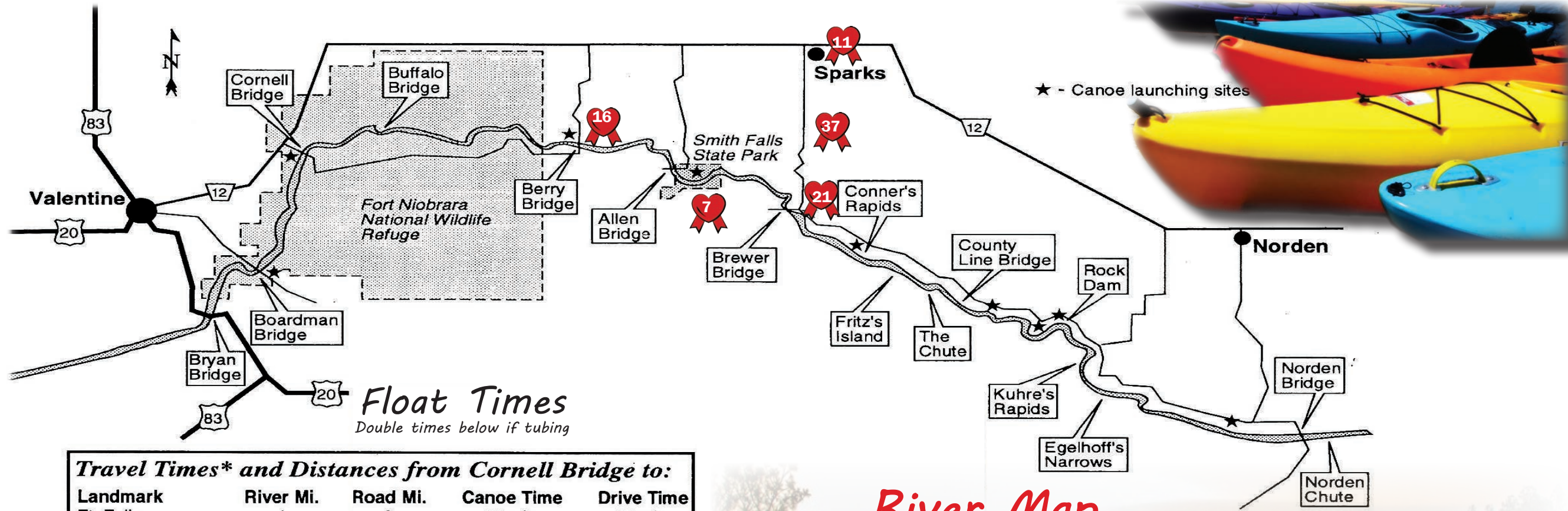


**7:30 am - 8:00 pm Mon-Sat
9:00 am - 6 pm Sunday**

108 West Hwy 20
Valentine, NE 402-376-3114

15

STAMP
HERE



Float Times

Double times below if tubing

Landmark	River Mi.	Road Mi.	Canoe Time	Drive Time
Ft. Falls	1	2	15 min.	15 min.
Buffalo Bridge	3		35 min.	
Berry Bridge	9	9	2 hrs.	20 min.
Allen Bridge	11.6	14	3 hrs.	25 min.
Smith Falls St. Park	12	14	3 hrs.	25 min.
Sparks		14		20 min.
Brewer Bridge	18	19	4 hrs.	30 min.
County Line Bridge	22	27	5 hrs.	40 min.
Rock Dam	26	30	6.5 hrs.	50 min.
Kuhre's Rapids	27	32	7.25 hrs.	1 hr.
Egelhoff's Narrows	30	34	7.5 hrs.	1.25 hrs.

River Map

Plan your Passport Stops

- #7 - Smith Falls State Park
- #11 - Dryland Aquatics & Sparks Store
- #16 - Berry Bridge Campground
- #21 - Sharp's Campground
- #37 - Heartland Elk Guest Ranch

Full Listing of Stops on Page 26

PRAIRIE RIVER OUTFITTERS & SUNNY BROOK CAMP

- Tube, Kayak & Canoe Rentals on the Niobrara National Scenic River with transportation included
- Riverside camping and cabins
- Indoor showers & restrooms
- RV sites
- Ice\Camp store
- Alcohol Free

402-376-1887

Cherry County Outfitters

- East Niobrara River Outfitters -
- Brewer's Canoers and Tubers... 402-376-2046
 - Dryland Aquatics... 402-376-3119
 - Graham Canoe Outfitters... 402-376-3708
 - Heartland Tubes... 402-389-1964
 - Little Outlaw Canoe and Tube... 402-376-1822
 - Heartland Elk Ranch... 402-376-2553
 - Prairie River Outfitters... 402-376-1887
 - Sharp's Tubes and Canoes... 402-376-2506
 - Niobrara River Ranch... 402-890-1245
 - Fritz's Island Campground... 877-700-3791

- West Niobrara River Outfitters -
- Nyobrafting... 402-389-2242

A Full List of Niobrara River Outfitters is on our Website visitvalentine.org

Passport Stop #16

NIOBRARA RIVER CAMPING

Berry Bridge Campground
RVs - Tents - Bunkhouses - Showers - Water - Electricity - Concessions
Berry Bridge Road

Penbrook Campground
20+ RVs sites - River Front Tent Camping
Water - Electricity - New Shower House - Flush Toilets
Sparks River Road

Book Online: www.NiobraraCamping.com
402-376-3474
off season 402-376-2503

Get your Stamp @
90281 Berry Bridge Road

Passport Stop #17

BAKERY DELI PIZZA BULK FOODS

OLD MILL

EST. 2014 VALENTINE, NE

Family Business
Fresh Ingredients
Made from Scratch
Friendly Service

Bakery
Deli
Brick Oven Pizzas
Bulk Foods

Find them on Facebook!

OLD MILL BULK FOODS
704 East C Street
Valentine, NE 402-376-8034

Passport Stop #18

Cody Livestock Supply

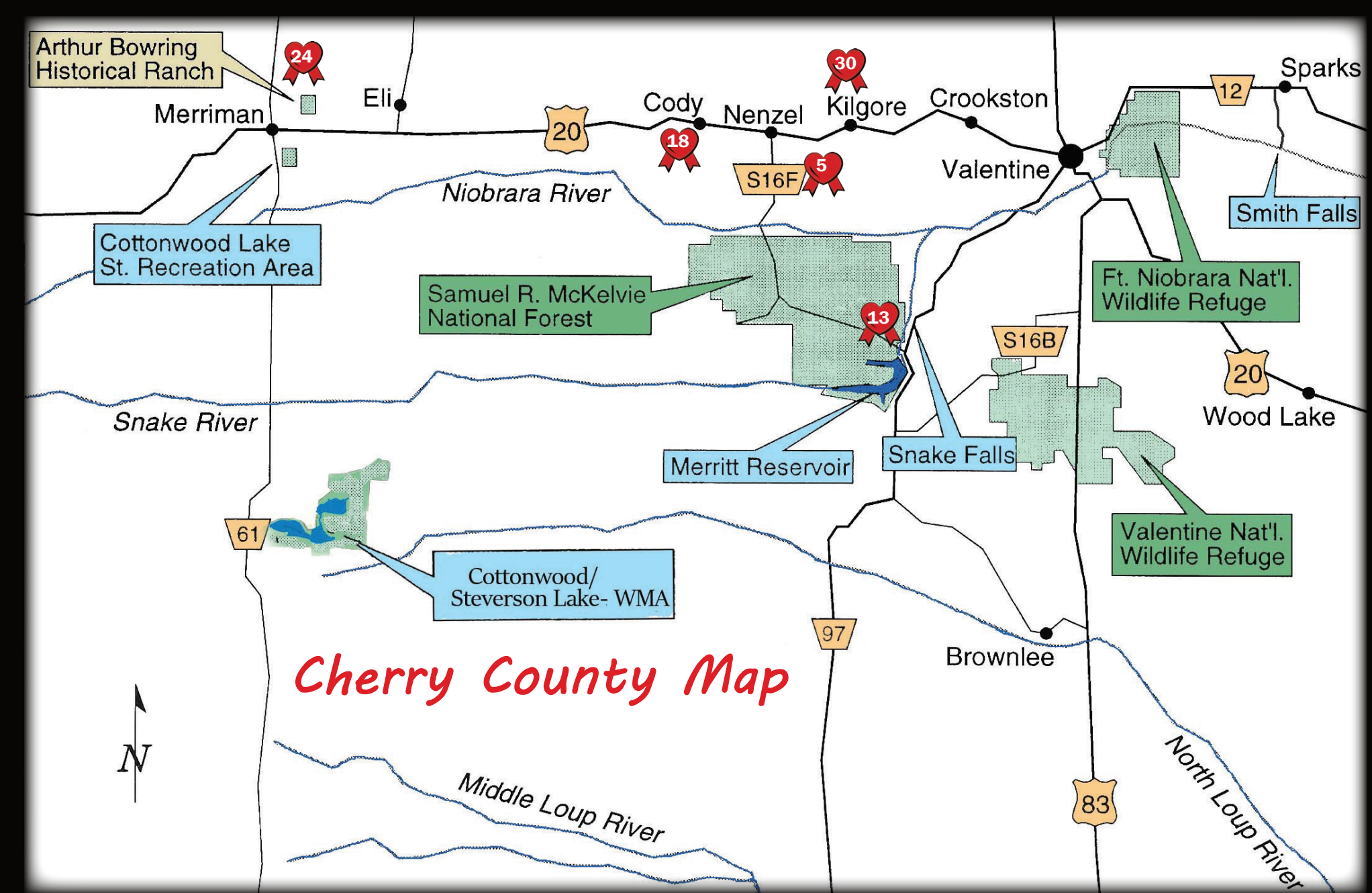
Livestock Health & Nutrition
Saddles, Tack & Equipment
Greeting Cards and Gifts
Montana Silversmith Jewelry

A little Store with So Much More!

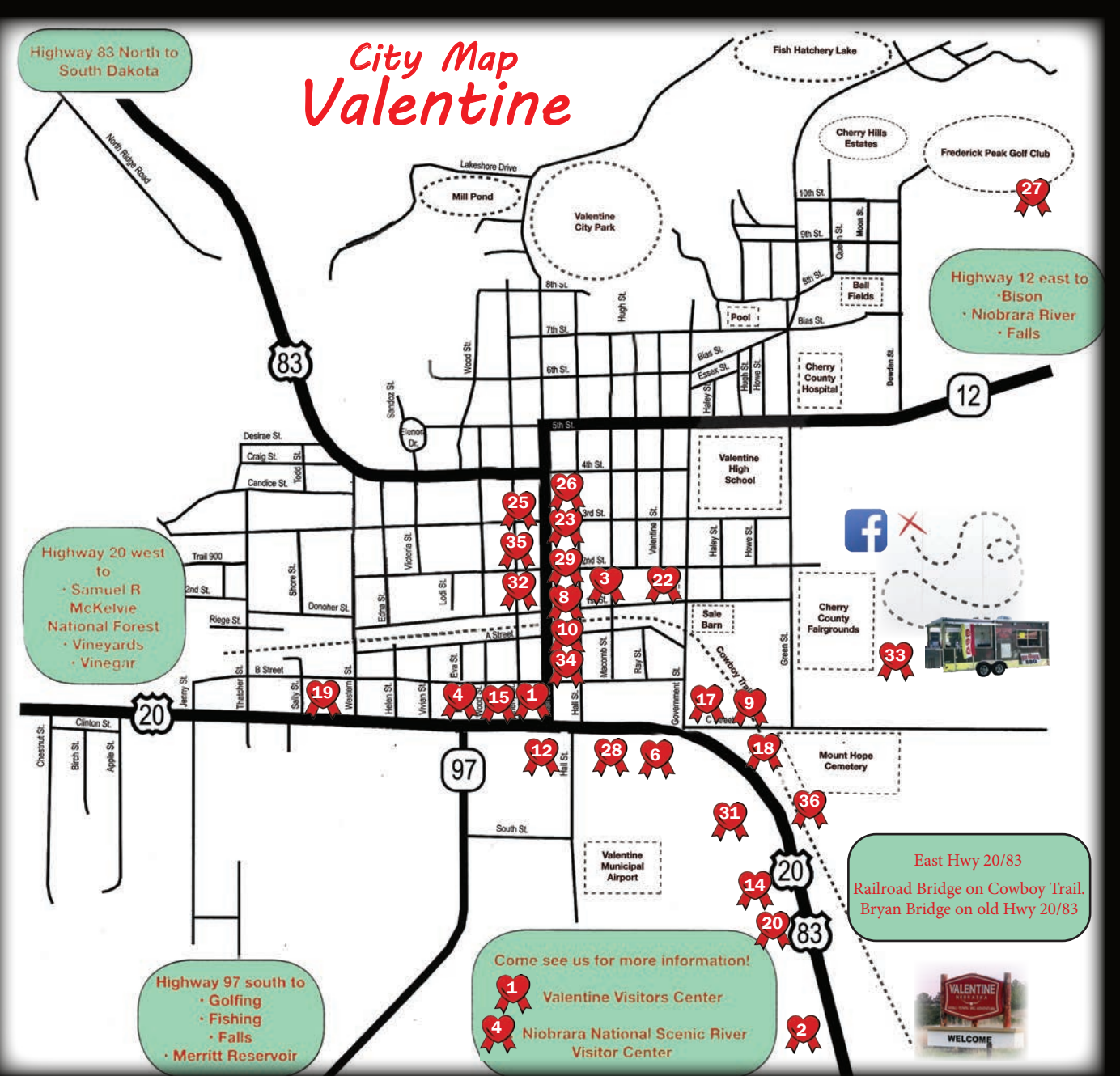
Serving the Cody Community and Cherry County with everyday supplies as well as a wide variety of special gifts that are signature to the sandhills way of life!

M-F 8 am-5 pm (MT) / Sat 8 am-Noon (MT)
109 West Hwy 20 - Cody, NE

www.CodyLivestockSupply.com 402-823-4241



- ### Plan your Passport Stops
- #1 - Valentine Visitor Center
 - #2 - Trade Winds Motel
 - #3 - Outback Screenprinting & Embroidery
 - #4 - Niobrara National Scenic River
 - #5 - Niobrara Valley Vineyards
 - #6 - Brewers Canoers
 - #7 - Smith Falls State Park
 - #8 - Nails by Becky NEW - Mystery Stamp??
 - #9 - Heartland Tubes
 - #10 - Country Fabric & Crafts
 - #11 - Dryland Aquatics
 - #12 - Speedee Mart
 - #13 - Merritt Trading Post Resort
 - #14 - Little Outlaw
 - #15 - Scotty's Ranchland Foods
 - #16 - Niobrara River Camping
 - #17 - Old Mill Bulk Food & Deli
 - #18 - Cody Livestock Supply
 - #19 - Tehrani Motors
 - #20 - The Gun Cabinet
 - #21 - Sharp's Outfitters
 - #22 - Bolo Beer Co
 - #23 - Janine's Flower Exchange
 - #24 - Arthur Bowring Ranch State Park
 - #25 - Sandhills Art & Metal Gallery
 - #26 - Valentine Public Library
 - #27 - Frederick Peak Golf Course
 - #28 - Super 8 by Wydham
 - #29 - Flowerland
 - #30 - Bordertown Steakhouse
 - #31 - Mid-Plains Community College
 - #32 - Auntie D's
 - #33 - The Hog Trough - Mobile Food Truck
 - #34 - Huskerland Comm./ US Cellular
 - #35 - Broken Spoke Boutique
 - #36 - Henderson's IGA
 - #37 - Heartland Elk Ranch
- All Locations on map are in general area



Passport Stop #19

TEHRANI MOTORS

Where You'd Send A Friend

Depending on where you're headed and what kind of activities you have planned, you'll want to consider renting a car, truck, SUV, UTV or ATV from Tehrani Motors.

704 West HWY 20 Valentine NE 69201 402-376-1661
tehranimotors.com tmcpowersports.com

STAMP HERE

Passport Stop #20

THE GUN CABINET

Buy Sell Order Trade
Shooting Supplies & Sporting Goods

402-376-1044

1007 E. Hwy 20, Valentine, NE

Find them on Facebook!

Perry Shaul. Has it All!

Hours: 8 am-6 pm M-F
8 am-5 pm Sat 1 pm-4 pm Sun

Located on the South Edge of Valentine

STAMP HERE

Passport Stop #21

Sharp's Outfitters

Niobrara Adventures

Book your Float and Stay!

- Clubhouse has snacks, ice, and drinks
- 127 campsites & 29 RV spots w/electrical hook ups along 2 miles of Niobrara riverfront!
- Shower house, and restrooms

90048 Sparks River Road Sparks, NE
5 miles south of Sparks on the Niobrara

Season Runs: April - October
Club House: 8 am to 9 pm Daily.

(402) 376-2506 / (402) 322-5606

www.sharpsoutfitters.com

www.visitvalentine.org

STAMP HERE

Don't Forget to Snag your Swag!

• Valentine / Cherry County / Nebraska Swag

Janine's Flower Exchange - post cards and other Valentine treats
 Outback Screenprinting - cups, mugs, magnets, shot glasses, hats, t-shirts, coozies, custom made to order items

Auntie D's - post cards, small prints, totes, pillows, decor, wine stoppers, jewelry, money clips
 Broken Spoke Boutique - stickers, patches, post cards, key chains, cards, pins, magnets, signs, shot glasses, shirts, hats, mugs, golf balls.

Speedee Mart - postcards, t-shirts, shot glasses, spoons
 Sandhill Art & Metal Gallery - sandhills photography and local artwork

• Niobrara River Swag + Floating & Lake Essentials

- hats, t-shirts, water shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, waterproof bags, snacks, ice

Brewers Canoers
 Little Outlaw
 Graham Canoe Outfitters

Dryland Aquatics
 Sharps Outfitters
 Merritt Trading Post



Graham Canoe Outfitters

Tube, Canoe, & Kayak Rentals

Car Shuttle Service

Riverfront Camping



Experience the Adventure for Yourself!

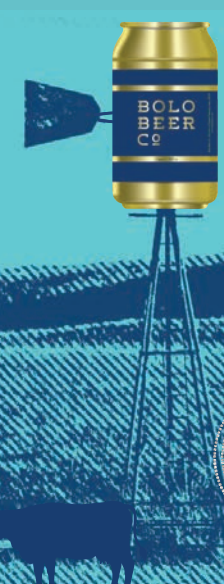
Reconnect with nature, on the Niobrara National Scenic River.
 Our Knowledge + Professional Staff = The Best Experience!

Office Location: 603 C. Street, Valentine, NE

Find Us! www.GrahamOutfitters.com **402-376-3708**
 f niobrarariveradventures-grahamcanoeoutfitters



Passport Stop #22
BOLO BEER
 Brewery & Taproom
Fresh. Local. Western.
 Open Wednesday to Saturday
 4pm to 10pm (ish)
 420 East 1st Street, Valentine, Neb.
www.BoloBeer.com



Passport Stop #23
Janine's Flower Exchange
 - Full Service -
Flower Shop & Espresso Bar

Coffee
 Flowers
 & Gifts

- Everyday
- Celebrations
- Sympathy
- Weddings
- Holidays
- Lattes
- Cappuccinos
- Frappes
- Fruit Smoothies
- Italian Sodas

Island Bamboo/PAKKA - Dizzy Pig - Crow Canyon - Fiestaware
 Handcrafted jewelry made locally
www.janinesflower.com
 Hours: 7:30-5:00 M-F 7:30-Noon Sat



262 N. Main Street
 Valentine, NE 1-800-769-2257
 Coupon: \$1.00 off a Large coffee purchase

Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park



Working Cattle Ranch in Merriman NE



Sod House



Cottonwood Lake

In 1985, the Nebraska Game & Parks Foundation accepted the gift of the 7,202-acre Bar 99 Ranch from the estate of former U.S. Senator Eve Bowring. She stipulated that the land was to remain a working ranch, maintaining the ranch's prize herd of Herefords.

Cottonwood Lake campground is located nearby and offers many camping amenities along with power boating, fishing, bird watching and picnicking. Its remote location makes it an excellent place to see the stars and get away from it all.



Passport Stop #24



www.outdoornebraska.gov/bowringranch

Located near Merriman, NE - 1.5 miles North on Hwy 61

- WORKING CATTLE RANCH • PICNICS
- MUSEUM • SOD HOUSE • TOURS



(308) 684-3428

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(closed dates subject to change)
see website before traveling
Memorial Day - Labor Day

Note: A Nebraska State Park Sticker is required and available on site.



Built in 1897, Nebraska's oldest standing high school sits proudly at 3rd and Macomb Street in Valentine, NE. It was placed in the National Registry of Historic places in 1984. It boasts 12 classrooms filled with historic exhibits to quickly transport you to how things looked in the area back then and through the years. These walls have a few extra secrets and a story or two that only they can tell for sure. Locals and visitors have reported some unexplained phenomenon. What could it be? You will have to see.....or hear.... for yourself.



Open May-Labor Day 1-5 / Thurs-Sat
or by appointment. Centennial Hall Museum

This treasure trove of history stands on the Corner of Hwy 20 and Main Street next to the Visitor Center. It is known for its extensive genealogy library, newspaper collection, and microfilm records that date back to 1884. The rooms inside will wind back the clock of time with artifacts from Ft. Niobrara, the Sioux Indians, the homesteader, the early cattleman and the town builders. Just outside the museum stands a log cabin from 1882. This gem has something to peak the interest of anyone at any age. You don't want to miss an opportunity to step inside.



Open May-Labor Day 1-4:30 / Thurs-Sat
or by appointment. Cherry County Historical Museum



Passport Stop #25



Sandhills Art & Metal Gallery

- Photography
- Photo Studio
- Metal Art
- Souvenirs
- Photo Kiosk
- Canvas Printing
- Custom Projects
- Ice Cream Shop



Local Sandhills Artist Displays: Duane Witte, Nina Nelson,

www.SandhillsArtandMetalGallery.com

www.NightLight.Photography

402-376-1839
265 North Main St
Valentine, NE



What's New!



GOLDEN PRAIRIE BISON

- Guided Tours
- Scenic Camping
- Birding Opportunities
- Stargazing & Sunset Views
- Personal, Friendly Service
- Bison Jerky & Meat for Sale

www.GoldenPrairieBison.com (402) 606-1127 Valentine, NE

Located just outside of Valentine, Nebraska, Golden Prairie Bison is run by Carl and Vicki Simmons, with help from their family. The Simmons family has lived and worked on this land since Carl's grandmother homesteaded in the area in 1914.

Carl introduced bison to the ranch in the mid-1990s because he wanted to try his hand at something new. Since then, they have been in awe of these majestic animals and how efficiently and sustainably they live on the land. The Simmons love working on the Great Plains and hope they can share a little bit of this unique and incredibly important place with you.



Passport Stop #26
VALENTINE PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Valentine Public Library is a full-service library with a collection of over 79,737 items which include audio, video, print, historical, digital and multimedia materials. The library also provides innovative and sustainable library services to its citizens and visitors.

- Print, scan, fax, and photocopy.
- Public access computers
- Fiber optic internet connection/WiFi
- Children's learning computer
- Children's gaming computers
- Programs for both adults and children
- Meeting room space for civic, cultural, and educational activities.



*"Here is where people,
One frequently finds,
Lower their voices
And raise their minds."*



- Richard Armour

VALENTINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

324 N Main Valentine, NE
Phone: 402-376-3160 www.valentinelibrary.org
Hours: Monday-Friday 9-6 Saturday 9-2



Passport Stop #28
Super 8 by Wyndham

Stay With Us!

- Free**
- wifi internet
 - parking
 - breakfast
 - pool & hot tub

Find Us



223 East Hwy 20 Valentine, NE 402-376-1250



Passport Stop #27



1000 Dowden St., Valentine
402-322-2754



After designing one of modern golf's greatest courses at The Prairie Club, Tom Lehman and Chris Brands returned to Valentine to design a public golf course accessible to anyone. Opened in 2017, Frederick Peak Golf Club boasts 10 of the most fun golf holes that you will ever play. The dramatic canyon landscape carved out by the Minnechaduzza Creek is ideal for golf. The area's natural beauty blends perfectly into the course to create an unheralded outdoor experience. Come visit us. Experience municipal golf at its best. Experience Valentine.

Hunt... and Fish... like a local!

Do your research. Learn Cherry County has to offer for hunting and fishing, or find hunting grounds in the region. When you stay in Cherry border and additional hunting opportunities.

about all of the public land an outfitter to have exclusive access to some of the prime County, you are only a few miles from the South Dakota Plan to stay a while - We will keep you busy!



Big Game



Ponds



Waterfowl

Rock Creek Lodge




Book your next stay @ Rock Creek Lodge!
The Lodge is perfect for a large family stay, hunter groups, wedding groups or a family stay-cation or vacation!



Bill & Vicky Cumbow
402-376-3082
415 N. Cherry Street
Valentine Ne

"Where good friends meet for Great Hunting!"
southdakotapheasant hunting.com

TOOTH & WHISKER GUIDE SERVICE




- Merritt Reservoir
- Valentine Refuge

Tyler Brown 402-875-0524
tyler@toothandwhiskerguideservice.com



Lakes



Small Game



Ice Fishing



Passport Stop #29

Flower Land

Make it **EXTRORDINARY** with a special gift from FlowerLand!

Flowers Plants Gifts Decor Holiday

Like us on Facebook

Your Heart City Florist



Hours 9-5 Monday-Friday
234 N. Main Street
Valentine, NE (402) 376-3082




Passport Stop #30

BORDERTOWN STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON

{ Open 7 days a Week }

The name says it all... Located 22.5 miles west of Valentine and just a few short miles from the South Dakota border, you will find the best kept secret in the Northern Sandhills. We are known for our hand cut high quality steaks and our laid-back atmosphere. Reestablished in 2016 by new owners, the Bordertown Steakhouse and Saloon is a must stop when you are traveling through Nebraska...

Hours: (note: Mountain Time)
10 am - 11 pm Mon-Wed
10 am - 2 am Thur-Sat
11 am - 8 pm Sunday




100 Main Street
Kilgore, NE 69216
(402)966-3881

Coupon: \$5.00 off steak dinner





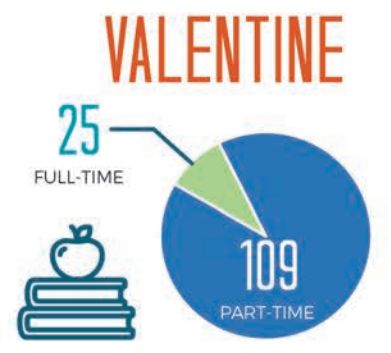
MID-PLAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUCCESS



VALENTINE CAMPUS

715 East Highway 20
Carolyn Petersen, Campus Administrator
402.376.8033 | petersenc@mpcc.edu

FALL 2019 ENROLLMENTS



Have you seen THIS?



* THE NEBRASKA STAR PARTY * JULY 24~29, 2022 *

There was a time when one could step outside the door and look up to see a panorama of jewel-like stars stretching from horizon to horizon in an endless parade as the seasons changed. Nowadays, man-made light has obscured most of the universe above our cities, even in our rural communities.

Ah, but the Nebraska Sandhills still hold vast stretches of prairie without a light to be seen, resulting in some of the darkest skies you'll find over the face of the Earth. And once each year to these dark skies come hundreds of men, women, and children on a quest to see the amazing expanse of the night sky as our ancestors once knew it.

They come with telescopes and binoculars, or with nothing more than their own two eyes. Some arrive armed with an intimate knowledge of the stars; others, mere curiosity and a sense of wonder. For one week each summer they gather to greet the hours between sunset and dawn with amazement.

And they party!

Here is your invitation! The week-long Nebraska Star Party is a vacation for the entire family, with ample opportunity for recreation, entertainment, and shopping during the day, and the magic of the sky at night.

Whether you're a veteran star gazer or you've never even looked through a telescope, plan to spend the week with us for an unforgettably fun, economical, and educational vacation under the stars! Check out all of the details at:

WWW.NEBRASKASTARPARTY.ORG

Valentine Bike Share

- The Valentine Bike Share is Valentine's newest addition!
- The Cowboy Trail trail-head at 1st & Main Street will greet you with these adorable bikes.
- Rent 1 for a couple hours. Follow the Cowboy Trail out East of town to the railroad bridge.
- You can hang a left at green street and cruise along the new pedestrian path that will take you to the far North East end of Valentine.
- Roll downtown to do some shopping or a few blocks over to the local brewery
- Valentine Bike share is the first of it's kind being the most rural bike share in state.
- Payment can be accessed by an app on your smart phone or at the bike kiosk. Locals and frequent visitors can even get a low monthly rental rate w/ unlimited rentals.



Passport Stop #32



Hours:
Mon-Fri 7:00-5:30
Saturday 8:00-5:00

When you walk thru our doors you will feel like you have come home. Auntie D's offers a wide variety of home decor, kitchen items, baby gifts, fine jewelry, purses, and offers many specialty coffee drinks including lattes, mochas, frappuccinos, iced lattes and cold brewed coffee plus many more with multiple non coffee options. Come check out the unique building built from bridge planks and re-purposed iron fencing from our old courthouse. We also have a drive thru in the alley behind our building to pick up your drinks to go before exploring the Valentine area.



201 North Main Street
Valentine, NE 402-376-3318

Coupon: \$.50 off Large Coffee



Passport Stop #33

HOG TROUGH LLC

VALENTINE, NE

**Sandhills Finest
Mobile Food Truck**



**BBQ hamburgers
to perfectly grilled steaks!**

**Smoked Pulled Pork &
Macho Nachos - A MUST!**

fairs - rodeos - weddings - branding - graduations - family reunions

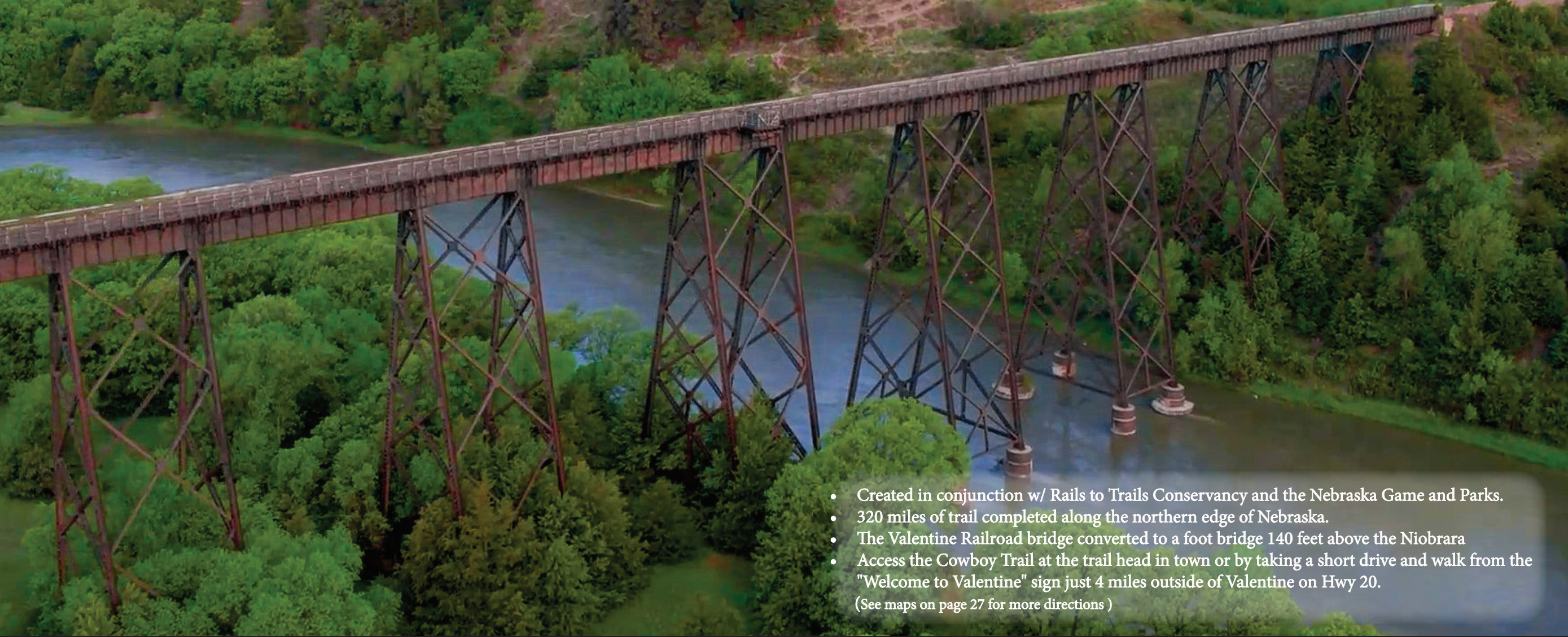
Follow Hog Trough LLC's Facebook page and their many menu items at various locations across North Central Nebraska. Contact Joe or April at 402-376-5556 or email at crazy13bacon@yahoo.com to book them for your event or special occasion.



**Joe's Specialty
- Smoked Meats -**



Cowboy Trail and Valentine Railroad Bridge



- Created in conjunction w/ Rails to Trails Conservancy and the Nebraska Game and Parks.
 - 320 miles of trail completed along the northern edge of Nebraska.
 - The Valentine Railroad bridge converted to a foot bridge 140 feet above the Niobrara
 - Access the Cowboy Trail at the trail head in town or by taking a short drive and walk from the "Welcome to Valentine" sign just 4 miles outside of Valentine on Hwy 20.
- (See maps on page 27 for more directions)



Passport Stop #34

iPhone 13

Your new superpower.

A superbright display in a durable design. Hollywood-worthy video shooting made easy. A lightning-fast chip. And a boost in battery life you'll notice every day.




Huskerland Communications
UScellular™ Authorized Agent
170 S. Main St., Valentine, 402-376-3597

Things we want you to know: Customer Service Agreement required. Additional charges, taxes, terms, conditions and coverage areas may apply and vary by plan, service and phone. Limited-time offer. Prices, plans and terms and subject to change without notice. See store for details. ©2020 UScellular




Passport Stop #35

BROKEN SPOKE boutique

Women and Children's Clothing	Handmade Jewelry
Natural Makeup and Skincare	Fair Trade Accessories
Gourmet Chocolates & Candies	Valentine Souvenirs
Local-Nebraska Made Products	So Much More!

205 North Main Street
Valentine, NE 803-422-1629

Hours: 10-5:30 Monday-Friday
10-5 Saturday 1-4 Sunday



brokenspokeboutique.com

Coupon: 10% off your purchase





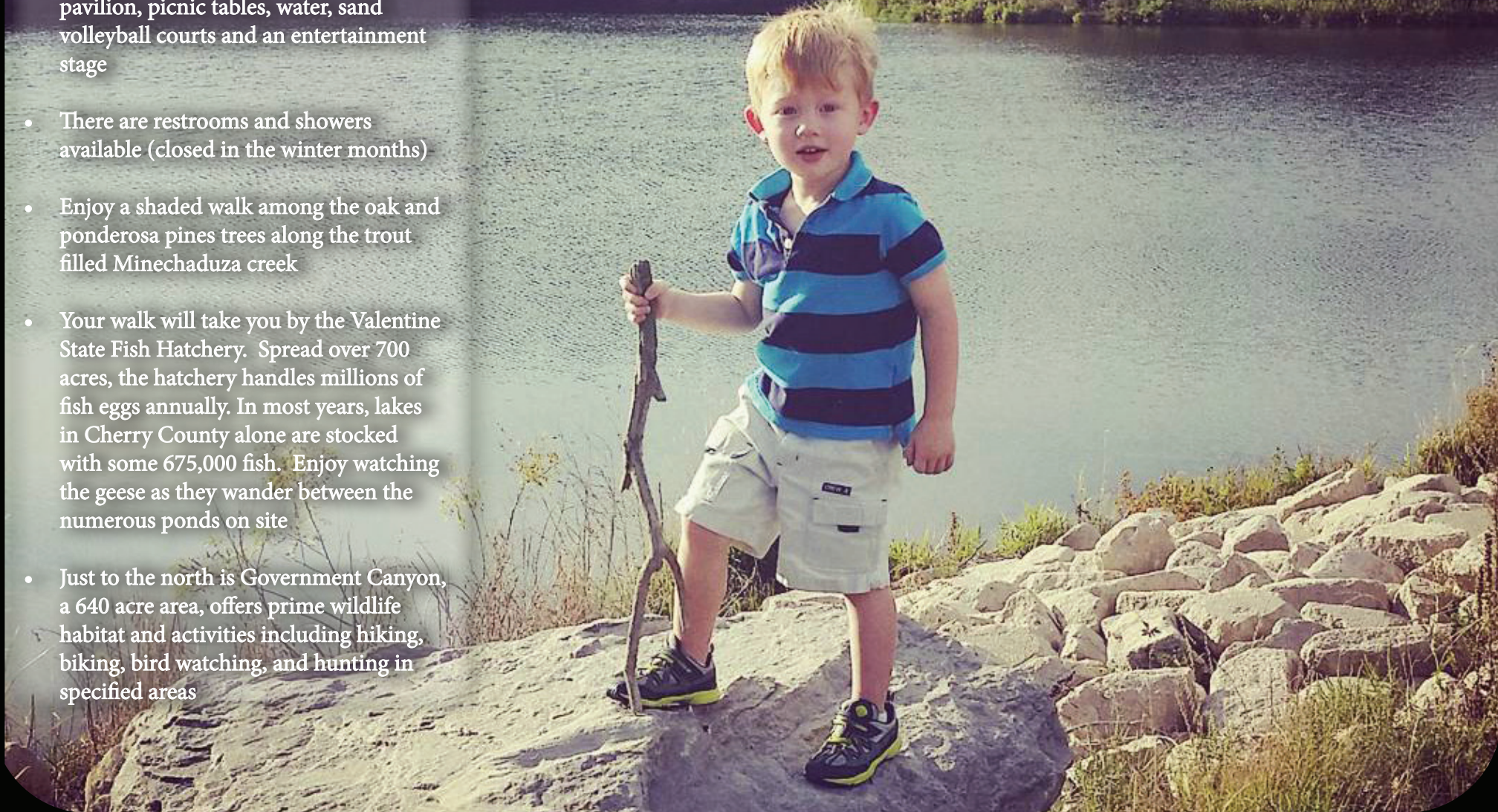
Valentine Disc Golf Course



Valentine City Park, Trails & the Minnechaduza Creek

Valentine Mill Pond & Valentine State Fish Hatchery

- Valentine City Park has a rentable pavilion, picnic tables, water, sand volleyball courts and an entertainment stage
- There are restrooms and showers available (closed in the winter months)
- Enjoy a shaded walk among the oak and ponderosa pines trees along the trout filled Minechaduza creek
- Your walk will take you by the Valentine State Fish Hatchery. Spread over 700 acres, the hatchery handles millions of fish eggs annually. In most years, lakes in Cherry County alone are stocked with some 675,000 fish. Enjoy watching the geese as they wander between the numerous ponds on site
- Just to the north is Government Canyon, a 640 acre area, offers prime wildlife habitat and activities including hiking, biking, bird watching, and hunting in specified areas



Passport Stop #36

Henderson's



People who care.

- Valentine's Finest Certified Angus Beef!
- Quick and Accessible Snacks & Beverages
- Great Hot Breakfast & Lunch Options in the Deli
- Fresh Produce and Bakery Items
- Best Customer Service!

Henderson's IGA

710 E. Hwy 20

Valentine, NE 402-376-1144

www.hendersonsiga.com

Open Daily 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Passport Stop #37

HEARTLAND ELK RANCH

Get Away From It All

tubing - canoeing - kayaking

Everything you need, all in one place, for that out of the way adventure! Float the scenic Niobrara River, hike, fish, and relax. The selection of cabins will accommodate groups large or small.

Book your stay today!



Heartland Elk
Guest Ranch

90236 Sparks River Road Valentine, NE
www.HeartlandElkRanch.com



CHERRY COUNTY 2022

Explore Cherry County

ANNUAL EVENTS

www.VisitValentine.org

JANUARY

1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
1/28-29 CORK THORNTON MEMORIAL ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY

2/12 HEART CITY BULL BASH
2/13 VALENTINE HS CORONATION
2/14 VALENTINE'S DAY
VALENTINE HEART DROP & CHILI COOKOFF

MARCH

3/13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
3/17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

APRIL

4/17 HAPPY EASTER!
4/23 1884 DAY
HAPPY 133th BIRTHDAY, VALENTINE!

MAY

5/1 FISHING DERBY
TBA JUNIOR HIGH RODEO
5/8 MOTHER'S DAY
5/23 CIRCLE C DAY - CODY
5/29 HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

JUNE

6/4 VALENTINE CLASSIC CAR CRUISE NIGHT
6/4-5 NIOBRARA RIVER FESTIVAL
6/11 ANDREW CLAYMON
ADULT/YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT
TBA CHADUZA COOK-OFF - VAL. CHAMBER
6/18 SOD HOUSE SATURDAY NIGHT
BBQ & DANCE - MERRIMAN
6/19 FATHER'S DAY
6/24-25 VALENTINE ALUMNI

JULY

7/4 FORTH OF JULY CELEBRATION & DEMO DERBY
7/16 CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE
7/23 CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT
7/24-29 NE STAR PARTY @ MERRITT RESERVOIR

AUGUST

8/11-14 CHERRY COUNTY FAIR & RODEO
8/6 CRAZY DAYS VALENTINE
8/27 OLD SETTLERS REUNION RODEO SPARKS

SEPTEMBER

9/5 LABOR DAY!
9/9-11 NSRA RODEO FINALS
9/17-19 SPARKS & SPURS COWBOY FAST DRAW
"LAST CHANCE SHOOT"
NE STATE AND GREAT PLAINS TERRITORIAL SHOOT

9/17 WILD WEST DAYS - KILGORE
(DATE MAY VARY)

TBA BISON ROUND-UP NWR

OCTOBER

TBA 30TH ANNUAL OLD WEST DAYS &
NE COWBOY POETRY GATHERING
10/8 PUMPKIN PATCH VENDOR CRAFT FAIR
TBA MOONLIGHT MADNESS
DOWNTOWN VALENTINE
10/31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

NOVEMBER

11/11 VETERAN'S DAY
11/20 HOLIDAY PREVIEW
11/25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
11/26 SHOP SMALL SATURDAY
Holiday Parade of Lights

DECEMBER

12/3 WINTERFEST CRAFT & GIFT Show / Bake Sale
12/10 CHRISTMAS AT THE BOWRING RANCH
MERRIMAN
12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

E V E N T S

AIN'T DEAD YET !!



OLD WEST DAYS

VALENTINE, NE.

Interested in performing?

Being a vendor?

Have questions?

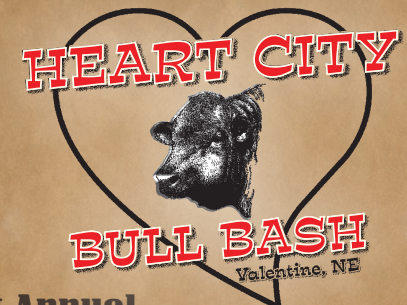
Visit our website for information
and the latest event updates

1-833-693-7638

www.oldwestdays.net

oldwestdays@hotmail.com

29th Annual Nebraska Star Party
@ Merritt Reservoir
July 24th - 29th 2022



21st Annual
Valentine's "Main" Event
Saturday, February 12, 2022
Downtown Valentine, NE

Wine Tasting
Gun & Art Shows
Commercial Displays
100+ Bull & Heifer Exhibits

Fun for the whole family
in the Heart City!

402-376-5831

www.bullbash.net

See our website for updates and changes in schedule.

If we learned one thing in two years....things can change.... www.VisitValentine.org

Dining

Valentine

Restaurant/Cafe/Lounge

- Peppermill Restaurant & EKV Lounge(402)376-2800
- Old Mill Bulk Food & Deli.....and Bakery.....(402)376-8034
- The Bunkhouse Restaurant & Lounge.....(402)376-1609
- Coachlight Cafe.....(402)376-3145
- Somethin' Else Cafe (402)322-3655
- Sale Barn Cafe / sale day only.....

Fast Food

- McDonald's.....(402)376-1714
- Subway.....(402)376-2112
- Pizza Hut.....(402)376-3303

Deli/Grocery

- Old Mill Bulk Food & Deli.....and Bakery.....(402)376-8034
- Henderson's IGA...(402)376-1144
- Scotty's Ranchland..(402)376-3114

Coffee Shop/Gift

- Auntie D's.....(402)376-3318
- Janine's Emporium.(402)376-2392

Seasonal Dining

- Frosty Drive Inn....(402)-376-2786
- The Prairie Club....(402)-376-1101

Convenience Store

- Hot Stuff.....(402)376-2283
- Casey's Pizza.....(402)376-2818
- Sinclair.....(402)376-1302

Brewery

- Bolo Beer Co.....

Bar/Pub

- Corner Pub.....(402)376-1297
- Vets Club.....(402)376-3603
- Bunkhouse Saloon.(402)376-1609
- Skylight.....
- Peppermill Restaurant & EKV Lounge(402)376-2800

Kilgore

- Bordertown Steakhouse & Saloon (402)966-3881

Nenzel

- Niobrara Valley Vineyards
- Friday pizza (seasonal) (402)823-4131

Cody

- Cody's Husker Hub (402)-823-4066
- Circle C Market (402)-823-4099

River Outfitters
(See pg 24)

Camping

Niobrara River Campgrounds

	8	5	18	.	.	.	f/p	.
Berry Bridge Camp.....(402)376-3474	.	.	25	.	.	.	f/p	.
Dryland Aquatics..... (800)337-3119	.	.	60	.	.	.	pp	.
Fritz's Island Campground... (402)432-2568
Prairie River Outfitters & Sunny Brook Camp.....(402)376-1887
Penbrook Campground.....(402)376-3474	.	.	60	.	.	.	pp	.
Sharp's Outfitters.....(402)376-2506	.	.	140	.	.	.	f/p	.
Smith Falls State Park.....Book online.....	.	.	40	.	.	.	f/p	.

Valentine Area Campgrounds

Fishberry Campground.....(866)376-1662	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.
Wacky West .....(402)376-1771	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.
City Park..... (402)-376-2323	.	.	40	.	.	.	.	.
Cherry Co. Fairgrounds.....	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Golden Prairie Bison.....www.hipcamp.com	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Surrounding Area Campgrounds

Merritt Reservoir.....(402)471-1414	.	.	140	.	.	.	.	.
Merritt Trading Post.....(402-376-3437	.	.	15	.	.	.	.	.
Steer Creek Campground - south of Nenzel @ McKelvie Nat. Forest.....(308)533-2257	23	.	23	.	.	.	p	.
Big Alkali Fish Camp.....	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

- Cody Area**.....City Park.....
- Merriman Area**..... Cottonwood Lake.....
- Woodlake Area**.....City Park.....


key - f-(flush toilet) p-(pit toilet) f/p-(both) pp-(porta potties)

Lodging

Hotel/Motels	Phone #	# of rooms	# of Suites	Conf. Rooms	Restaurant	Indoor Pool	Pet Friendly	Fitness Room	Laundry
Comfort Inn.....(402)376-3300	50	6	--	--	●	--	●	●	●
Harmony Inn & Suites.....(402)376-3131	72	22	--	--	●	●	●	●	
Niobrara Lodge.....(402)376-3000	62	20	●	--	●	●	●	--	
Raine Motel.....(402)376-2030	31	--	●	--	●	--	●	●	
Super 8 Motel.....(402)376-1250	59	1	--	--	●	●	--	●	
Tradewinds Motel.....(402)376-1600	32	--	--	--	●	--	--	--	

Resorts & Hunting

Cottonwood House .....(402)376-1109	1 Cabin
Heartland Elk Ranch.....(402)376-2553	5 Cabins
Lord Ranch Resort.....(402)376-5984	5 Cabins
Merritt Trading Post.....(402)376-3437	15 Cabins
Niobrara River Ranch.....(402)890-1245	7 Cabins
Niobrara Riverview Retreat.....(402)322-0640	Lg Bunkhouse
Rock Creek Hunting.....(605)378-1538	1 Cabin
Sandhills Double RR Guest Ranch..(308)546-2314	2 Cabins

 [airbnb options online](#) - Valentine, Cody, Crookston, Woodlake



Return Address:

Postage Required

CHERRY COUNTY TOURISM
P.O. Box 687
VALENTINE, NE 69201



Passport Information Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

of completed Passport Stops: _____ # of selfies: _____

Did you post any selfies w/ #cherrycountypassport ?

Facebook/Instagram name: _____

Be sure to mark them "Selfie!" on the stamp page.

Did you make it to all the Stops? Congratulations!!

Comments:

Thank you For Visiting!

Choose 1 (X) : Tumbler cup _____ or T- Shirt _____

T-shirt size (X): S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ other _____ (specify)

If your name is drawn for the Grand Prize Package (Email will be used for contest prize and entry correspondence only)

Activity of Choice? : _____ (golf, hunting, fishing, camping, other)

Email Address: _____

cut here

--	--



Is the attraction or business not open today? Bummer! Don't Worry - Just take a selfie holding your Explore Valentine & Cherry County Passport, mark the stamp spot with the word "Selfie" and upload your pics to Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag: #cherrycountypassport.

Be sure to fill out all your info on the other side of this sheet. and get it sent in!

See our website for any updates, changes, or more chances to enter! Let the Adventure Begin!

Cherry County Passport Prizes:

10 Stamps (Any location) = Cherry County Tourism Magnet
 All prizes are cumulative - Collect this prize and get more entries to win, as you get more stamps!

- a entry to win \$20.00 in Valentine Chamber Bucks - (5 winners)

15 Stamps (w/a minimum of 2 stamps from each region map - river map . county map . city map)
 Cherry County Post Cards / Custom Valentine's Day Cards
 Plus a chance to win one of the following:

- a entry to win a \$100.00 worth of Beef - (3 winners)
- a entry to win \$100.00 in Valentine Chamber Bucks - (3 winners)

All Stamps = Choice of Cherry County Passport T-shirt or Tumbler Cup
 (T-shirts and tumblers to only the first 50 participants to complete all stops)
 Plus All who complete all stops get an entry in the Grand Prize Drawing:
 1 lucky winner will walk away with:
 Cherry County Vacation Package of your choice!
 Worth up to \$1,000.00 Value - Includes lodging, dining, & activities
 Cherry County Tourism will help you plan a getaway with the activities of your choosing (no redeemable cash value)

A Special Prize to anyone completing 37 stops 2 years in a row!

Cherry County Passport Instructions:

Participation is from April 15th -- October 15th to collect all stamps and selfies!
 Entry forms must be sent in / postmarked by November 15th, 2022 to be eligible for prizes

- No purchase necessary.
- One prize entry per person.
- No age limit to participate. (must be 18 years of age to book hotel package)
- See page 48 for "selfie" instructions
- Collect stamps and mark "selfies"
- Upload selfies with #cherrycountypassport
- Fill out entry form on page 47
- Detach entry form/ fold/ stamp/ mail

Each location has their own stamp to mark your passport. Collect 2 stamps from each location. One to keep with your Explore Valentine Magazine and one for your entry form on page 47. Make sure you have each Passport Stop stamps their ad and the entry form. Keep your booklet and mail in only the entry form. Don't forget to mark upload your selfies!

- All winners of prize drawings will be notified in December of 2022
- Please allow until January 30th 2023 for all prizes to be distributed.

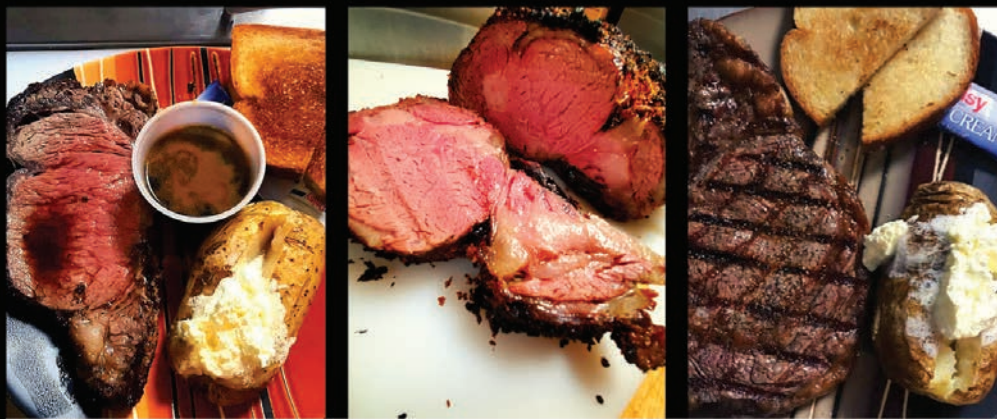
The goal of the Cherry County Passport program is to provide a fun experience as you Explore Valentine & Cherry County! We hope that you enjoy the adventure and get a better idea of everything Cherry County has to offer. We are glad you are here! You are half way to anywhere....and in the middle of nowhere....Perfect!

**Cherry County Tourism
& Valentine Visitor Center**
239 S. Main St / PO Box 687
Valentine, NE 69201

Phone: 402-376-2969
www.VisitValentine.org

**BORDERTOWN
STEAKHOUSE
AND
SALOON**
*Kilgore, NE
USA*

DISCOVER A NEW LEVEL OF TASTE.



100 MAIN ST. | KILGORE, NE

P: (402) 966-3881

FACEBOOK: BORDERTOWN STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

Open 7 days a Week
8 am - 11 pm Mon-Wed / 8 am - 2 am Thur-Sat / 11 am - 8 pm Sunday