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Welcome TO COLUMBUS AND PLATTE COUNTY!

We are delighted to have you here and invite you to explore and experience our communities' diverse offerings.

Immerse yourself in our extensive network of water, walking, and biking trails, numerous parks, camping facilities, dining establishments, and lodging accommodations.

Our region caters to a wide range of interests, ensuring every visit is unique. Venture into our charming Trackside District - Downtown Columbus, where you will discover boutiques and captivating finds. Alternatively, explore our renowned attractions, such as the Pawnee Plunge Water Park, Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial, Humphrey

Veterans Memorial, and the casino and horse racing venue.

For a taste of our vibrant entertainment scene, consider attending the Platte County Fair, the Humphrey Days festival, the Platte Center 4th of July Celebration, Lindsay's Pivot Days, or our annual Columbus Days Celebration in August. Whether you choose to spend a day, a night, or even an extended period, you will be captivated by our warm welcoming atmosphere each time.

We are honored to call Columbus and Platte County our home and eagerly anticipate welcoming you to our vibrant community.

This Visitors Guide is a bit different from what you might expect. We've shared some insights into each community we serve and some special stories. The highlights will change each year to focus on new attractions in our communities, so plan an annual trip to Platte County and discover even more each time you visit!

Secondly, if you are looking for business listings or events, please visit our website: VisitColumbusNE.com. The site is always updated, and you will always find something new to discover. Of course, you can always stop by our office – we would love to say hello!

Theresa Grape
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PLATTE COUNTY *Fun Facts*

★ The Lincoln Memorial Highway (US Hwy 30, New York to San Francisco) and the Pan American Highway (US Highway 81, Winnipeg to Galveston) were built through Platte County in the early 1900s and crossed paths in Columbus.

★ Columbus was honored to be one of the first 2 cities in the United States to receive steel from the fallen New York World Trade Center Twin Towers. The steel is displayed at the Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial in Pawnee Park.

★ Columbus is home to three public power districts: Nebraska Public Power, Loup Power District & Cornhusker Public Power. Hence "the City of Power & Progress."

★ Platte Center, NE gets its name from being at the center of Platte County.

★ Buffalo Bill practiced his "Wild West Show" in Columbus before taking it on the circuit.

★ The Fieldhouse has the region's longest indoor walking track (1/4 mile) and a full-size indoor soccer field.

★ Tarnov, NE Platte County, was bombed on August 16, 1943, during a practice run during World War II.

★ Glur's Tavern in Columbus is the oldest continuously operating tavern west of the Missouri River.

★ Columbus is known as the most industrialized city per capita in Nebraska.

★ Monroe, NE was named after former President James Monroe and is home to the Horn T Zoo.

★ Max Carl (Gronenthal) is a singer/songwriter for Grand Funk Railroad and 38 Special and grew up in Humphrey.

★ Columbus is the second original location of Godfather's Pizza.

★ Columbus/Duncan is home to Dorothy Lynch salad dressing, pleasing salad lovers all over the U.S.

★ More than 11 square miles of Platte County is comprised of water.

★ Home to the only 1-mile horse track in Nebraska.



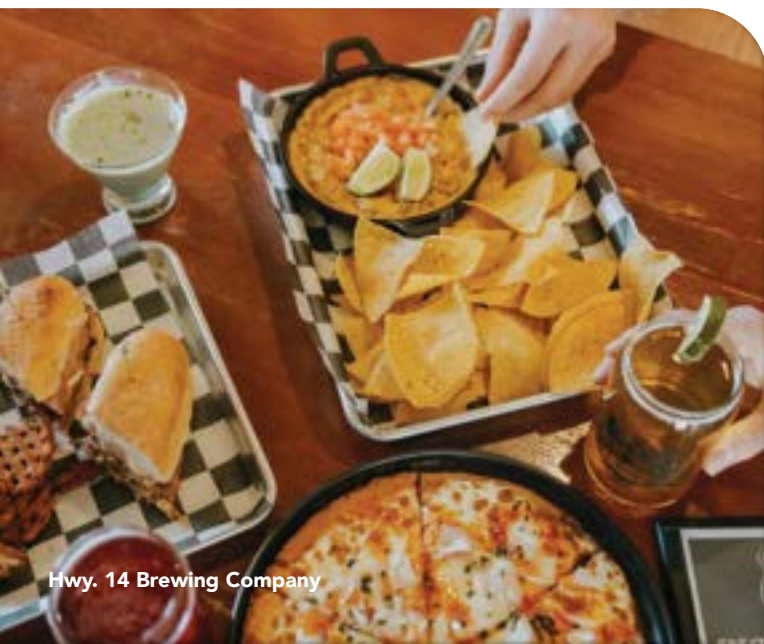
US 30 Speedway



Maddie & Tae Concert at Platte County Fair, Ag Park



The Broken Mug



Hwy. 14 Brewing Company

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 05 The Beginning of Something Good
- 06 The Van Berg Family Golf Center
- 07 Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial
- 08 The Trackside District
- 09 Platte Center
- 12 Columbus Parks
- 13 Duncan
- 14 Creston
- 14 Veterans Park
- 15 Humphrey
- 16 Map of Columbus, Nebraska
- 20 Lindsay
- 21 Tarnov
- 24 The Friedhof Building/Oak Room
- 25 Prime 10 Steakhouse & Venue
- 26 Accommodations
- 27 Regina's Kitchen
- 30 Monroe

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THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING GOOD



Early in 1856, several men living in Columbus, Ohio, dreamed of a bold business venture: establishing a town along the route of the proposed transcontinental railway. By March, they had formed the "Columbus Town Company." Believing the logical choice for a railroad would be in the wide, flat Platte Valley that stretched from the Missouri to the mountains, they chose to locate their town at the confluence of the Loup and Platte rivers in the Nebraska Territory.

Eleven of the 13 men were of German descent, one was Swiss, and one was Irish. They ranged in age from 22 to 42.

They traveled 80 miles west from Omaha by ox team, arriving at the Columbus settlement site on May 29, 1856. They built a log cabin with a thatched roof using trees from along the Loup River. This served as a home for the colony until other houses could be built.



When more pioneers arrived in the new town, a sawmill, a grist mill, and a brewery sprang up. The well-established village was an easy choice for the county seat when the area north of the Platte was reorganized. The "choice location" not only placed Columbus on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad, but later as a hub for branch lines such as the Atchison & Nebraska lines from Lincoln, and the Omaha, Niobrara, and Black Hills lines to Norfolk.

Buffalo Bill was a frequent visitor to Columbus and a good friend of the North Brothers. The North Brothers were known for beginning and overseeing the group of Native Americans known as the Pawnee Scouts. The Scouts were known for the U.S. government's assistance during westward expansion.

Buffalo Bill enjoyed Columbus so much that it was the site for the first full dress rehearsal of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The wild west extravaganza formally opened in Omaha a couple of days later. With the adoption of the automobile as the preferred method of transportation, the cry "take Nebraska out of the mud" resulted in paving the old Mormon Trail/Lincoln Highway (U.S. Hwy. 30) and the Meridian Highway (U.S. Hwy. 81), making Columbus the "crossroads of the nation." Bridges over the rivers were improved and a viaduct was built across the busy U.P. tracks.

By 1910, Columbus had a population of 5,000, a sizeable number of inhabitants for those days. It was a strong commercial point for goods going west. The town's next big growth spurt came in the mid-century when the Columbus economy became three-pronged: industry, agriculture, and electricity.



TEE UP FOR AN AMAZING GOLFING EXPERIENCE



THE VAN BERG FAMILY GOLF CENTER

Built in 1928, this charming 9-hole golf course is just right for a quick round of golf for anyone at any skill level. The course gained its namesake from the famous Columbus thoroughbred horse-racing family, the Van Bergs. It's on the west side of Pawnee Park, just off Highway 30 and 81. Aside from your typical golfing experience, you'll find something really special here - a 9-hole Foot Golf Course and a 9-hole Birdie Ball Course. These courses are great for young kids to get started learning the game of Golf using outsized balls [similar to soccer balls] and clubs! You will also find indoor/outdoor putting greens, golf shop essentials, refreshments and snacks in the clubhouse.

In addition to the well-maintained golf course, two indoor Trackman golf simulator bays were installed to use during inclement weather. They offer the following on a year-round basis:

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The indoor Trackman range is all about fun, exciting, easy-to-use applications providing the ultimate range experience for every golfer at every level - that's practice, games and virtual golf and new features every season!

At Van Berg Family Golf Center they help players have fun and unleash their potential either on the course or while using the simulators!

Stop by and visit the golf center, you won't be disappointed!





ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS MEMORIAL

A TRIBUTE TO OUR HISTORY

“Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us... If Higgins had not designed and built those Landing Craft VPs, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different. **”**
- President Dwight Eisenhower

andrewjacksonhigginsmemorialfoundation.org

Andrew Jackson Higgins was born in Columbus, Nebraska. Andrew's father, John, came to Columbus in 1870 to spend a couple of days interviewing famous Indian scout Major Frank North. John was so taken by the town that he convinced his wife Annie to give up their dream of California and settle in Columbus, where Andrew was born in 1886.

Higgins' experience with the shallow rivers in the Columbus area gave him a vision for a shallow-draft boat that changed the course of history. Founder and President of Higgins Industries in New Orleans, Higgins rose to international prominence during World War II for his design and mass production of "Higgins Boats."

These crafts allowed the military to transport men and equipment safely to beaches during amphibious landings during the war. Higgins Industries produced 20,094 boats during WWII.

The Higgins Memorial began as a class research project for several Columbus High School classes. They became so taken with the story of Higgins that a research project became a community memorial. The memorial includes a full-size replica of the famous Higgins Boat and bronze soldiers running from the boat, depicting a soldier from each of the three wars in which Higgins Boats served. Around the boat are sand samples from landing beaches across

the globe where Higgins Boats carried soldiers ashore. Recently, a boat engine was added to the display. A local farmer had used the engine on his irrigation pivot for over 50 years.

A large bronze eagle sits atop a steel sculpture made from steel taken from the fallen World Trade Center towers. This honors those who lost their lives on 9/11 and those who continue to fight against terrorism. Internationally renowned artist Fred Hoppe created all the sculptures at the memorial.

The Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial is a tribute to a Columbus native son who changed history...to veterans of all eras who have served and sacrificed...to the ongoing fight against the evil of terrorism...and the power of engaged young people to impact their community.



Welcome to

THE TRACKSIDE DISTRICT IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS



Wildflower Pastries

The Trackside District is the perfect mix of history, charm and entertainment. Explore unique boutiques, artisan shops and specialty stores offering everything from handmade goods to one-of-a-kind gifts. Satisfy your cravings at local favorites serving up juicy burgers, barbecue, and irresistible sweet treats, or grab a cozy coffee to fuel your adventures. Art is alive in every corner, with eye-catching murals, sculptures and galleries that add a creative spark to the district.

Enjoy live entertainment throughout the year, with local bars and venues hosting musicians, comedians and DJs for an unforgettable night out. Don't miss the summer Beats & Eats series in Frankfort Square, where you can experience live music under the stars. Whether you're here to shop, dine or just take in the scene, the Trackside District invites you to enjoy the best of Downtown Columbus.



Beats & Eats, Frankfort Square



PLATTE CENTER

A SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG HEART



Nestled in the heart of Platte County, Platte Center is a shining example of small-town charm and community spirit. With a population of over 300 residents, the village may be small, but it thrives on the close-knit relationships and shared dedication of its people. From thriving local businesses to exciting community events, Platte Center offers a lifestyle combining the best of rural living.

The residents take pride in their town, supporting each other in times of need and celebrating together during moments of joy. This close connection is evident in the way the community comes together for events and activities throughout the year.

Platte Center hosts several community and social events. One of the most cherished traditions is the multi-day **4th of July Celebration**, an event filled with patriotic pride, family-friendly activities, and a sense of togetherness. From the parade to the 5k, the festivities offer something for everyone to enjoy.

Another highlight of the year is the **Demolition Derby**, a high-octane event bringing thrills and excitement to the village. This crowd-favorite draws spectators and participants alike, creating an electrifying atmosphere showcasing the fun-loving spirit of Platte Center.

For those who love a more active and unique form of entertainment, events like **Glow in the Dark Sand Volleyball** and **Mud Volleyball** are perfect examples of Platte Center's creative approach to community fun. These events provide a chance for residents and visitors to let loose, bond, and enjoy the outdoors in a one-of-a-kind way.

Platte Center invites you to visit and enjoy the community. Experience the heart of who they are and leave with a smile!



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Andrew Jackson **HIGGINS** MEMORIAL

The historical Higgins Boat gave WWII military the ability to transport 1,000s of men and equipment onto Normandy Beach forever changing the trajectory of the war.

*Visit this lifesize monumental memorial in
Columbus' West Pawnee Park!*

*Honoring native son Andrew Jackson Higgins,
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andrewjacksonhigginsmemorialfoundation.org



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Flowrider at Pawnee Plunge Water Park

COLUMBUS PARKS

NOT YOUR ORDINARY PARK EXPERIENCE

Columbus boasts 17 city parks of different sizes, as well as the top-notch Pawnee Plunge Water Park and an indoor aquatic center, giving visitors a wealth of ways to enjoy area recreation.

THREE PILLARS OF SUCCESS

Our park system is fueled by three pillars: Health and wellness, equity, and conservation.

“These three pillars serve as the foundation upon which our parks are built, ensuring that they provide a reliable resource for fostering the strength and vitality of our community,” City Parks and Recreation Director Betsy Eckhardt said. “This affects all members of our community, while leaving a legacy of sustainability for future generations in Columbus.”

200 ACRES OF EXCITEMENT AWAIT

Our backbone is the ever-popular **Pawnee Park**, which provides more than 200 acres of fun with two great

rentable picnic shelters and more than four playground structures. Located on the south side of town, Pawnee Park is home to the Pawnee Plunge Water Park and Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial. It is also a mecca for outdoor recreation with a turf soccer/football field, baseball field, competitive track, six tennis courts, sand volleyball, and more.

EVEN MORE PARKS TO LOVE

You can find something to do in the various parks throughout Columbus. **Gerrard Park** features six baseball/softball fields and hosts thousands of fans yearly! It is home to three world-class pickleball courts (the first three official outdoor pickleball courts in Columbus) to accommodate interest in the fastest-growing sport in the country.

Centennial Park has an outdoor archery range, while **Sock Pond** is a great place to watch wildlife and spend an afternoon fishing.

No matter where adventure takes you in Columbus parks, you’re promised to enjoy making memories.

“We want visitors to remember their time in Columbus and to return to share their experience with others,” Eckhardt said. “There’s something for everyone.”



Pawnee Park Tennis Courts



Duncan

COMMUNITY VALUES AND ENRICHED HISTORY

As you make your way down Highway 30, you will find the quaint village of Duncan, where the boundaries are defined less by map boundaries and more by the shared values of the community. Small town values and the preservation of historical, cultural, and natural heritage are just a few of the core principles that make the village a wonderful place to visit.

As you encounter people, you will feel a sense of well-being, and enjoy life every day. The community combines agriculture, manufacturing, history, civic activities, and recreation for a wholesome and relaxing atmosphere.

HISTORY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Duncan, formerly known as Jackson, was established when the transcontinental railroad reached the area in 1866. Polish and Swiss immigrants were the first inhabitants. With the help of the Union Pacific Railroad, Jackson was established in 1871. In 1880, the village was renamed Duncan, honoring General Wood B. Duncan, a prominent onetime resident.

A MIDWEST FAVORITE SALAD DRESSING COMES HOME

One of Duncan's claims to fame is the Midwest's favorite **Dorothy Lynch** salad dressing, which originated in the 1940s. The one-of-a-kind dressing blends a unique combination of tomato, sweet, and tangy flavors and has become an iconic favorite throughout the Midwest. In 1964, **Tasty-Toppings, Inc.** purchased the recipe and rights to Dorothy Lynch and built a production facility in Columbus, Nebraska. The company later expanded its production capacity with a modern 64,000-square-foot plant in Duncan.



TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY PASSES THROUGH

In 1913, the cross-country **Lincoln Highway** was established parallel to the Union Pacific tracks through Duncan.

In 1928, the Highway was shifted to the south side of the tracks, now U.S. Highway 30, to eliminate grade-level crossings between Columbus and Grand Island.

The former route on the north side of the railroad tracks can still be seen today. A concrete marker at the southeast corner of 8th Street and Main Avenue indicates the northeastern end of a 2.4-mile (3.9 km) section that has not changed significantly since the 1920s. This section of road, including the marker and an avenue of hackberry trees where the old highway passed through, is just south of downtown Duncan. This area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as Lincoln Highway-Duncan West.

WE WELCOME YOUR VISIT

Throughout the year, you can enjoy various events, from casual dining to spending quality time in the local park and relaxing with your family for an afternoon of outdoor fun. Adventure through our little piece of history and see what we are all about. Visit soon!

Creston

A LITTLE TOWN WITH
A LOT TO OFFER.



A short drive north of Columbus you will find a unique small town named Creston where friendly and hospitable residents welcome you with open arms. When visiting, you will feel at home the second you step out of your car. The town is tucked away in rural Nebraska, yet it provides a distinctive experience.

Creston is surrounded by natural beauty, a slower pace of life, and a strong sense of community. Dine at **The Rambler Bar & Grill** or go fishing and boating at nearby lakes. The peaceful and quiet ambience allows for relaxation and the chance to enjoy your surroundings truly.

Creston, located along Highway 91, has a population of just under 200 people and boasts Nebraska's oldest municipal swimming pool. The pool celebrates its 106th birthday in 2025 and is a source of community pride.

In 1917, Dr. Harry Morris began promoting the building of a community pool. Two years later, in July 1919, the town secured a one-acre site purchased for \$200 from Pioneer Township Co.

The pool—110 feet long and 55 feet wide—opened in September 1919 without a bathhouse and diving boards, which served more as planks since

they didn't include springs. The first bathhouse was added in 1921, twelve years before it was remodeled into a Spanish-style building.

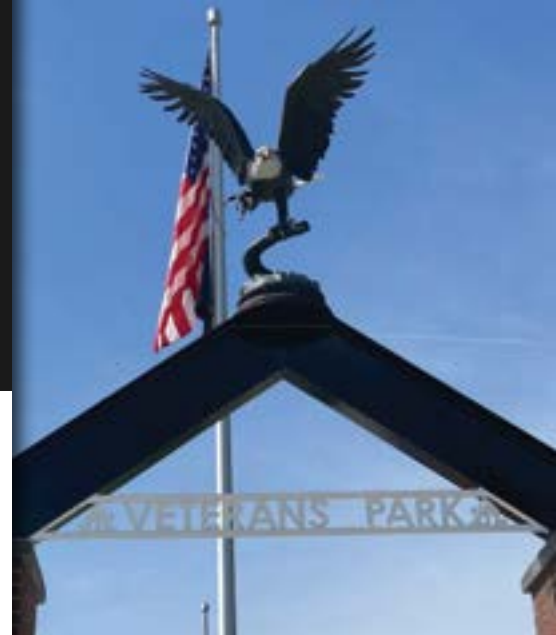
When the bathhouse needed to be replaced again in the early 1960s, a group of local women started "pheasant meals," serving food to hunters in the area to raise money for the project.

The annual **Creston Fall Dinner & Expo** in November offers great food and shopping. The event serves up various homemade foods, offers a chance to tour the museum, and shop from wares offered by various vendors. Proceeds from the event are used to support the Creston Pool and park improvements, ball diamond, Easter, Christmas, and July 4th activities.

Christmas in Creston features a visit from Santa Claus, an auction, goodies, and good, old-fashioned fun.

Celebrate the **4th of July** with a meal in the park, kids' games, a softball game, and a vibrant fireworks display.

We hope you take a moment to pop in and check out Creston! You won't be disappointed!



VETERANS PARK, HUMPHREY

The Veterans Park in Humphrey, aims to recognize servicemen and women across all branches of the United States military for their service and sacrifice to our great nation during times of war and peace. It serves as a place of remembrance and solidarity to celebrate honorable choices and sacrifices. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the past and educate the future.

As we move forward in an uncertain world, we pray this memorial serves as a reminder of those who gave all so we may live free in this great country. In 2015, the Humphrey American Legion Post 80 officially decided to begin building a new veteran memorial in Humphrey. In 2018, after years of planning and trying to find a viable location for the project, the Legion was given a parcel of land through a generous donation by Mark and Marcelline Foltz.



Humphrey

CHARMING WITH A MIX OF HISTORY



If you are looking for a great place to visit, make sure to check out Humphrey.

As you travel along Highway 81, Humphrey continues to be a shining star among small towns in Nebraska. This small town is inviting, with wholesome people who become your friends the instant you meet. Humphrey boasts many amenities, from a newly built zero-entry pool to an honorable memorial park. You will enjoy making your way through the town.

The **Humphrey Aquatic Center** opened in 2024 and is not your average

pool. The heated pool has 6,150 square feet of water fun with zero-depth entry. Cool off on a hot summer day in the water playground, which has enough features to entertain anyone, including a twisting slide, water jungle gym, lily pads, basketball hoops, and other fantastic features.

FOR THE HISTORY BUFF

To honor our veterans, stop by the **Veterans Park**, a memorial to those who proudly and bravely served our country. It is a lasting tribute to veterans from all over, and its design is a fitting tribute to those we will never forget.

Heritage Park is just a short stroll away. Enjoy a picnic or pull your camper into one of our cozy campsites for a few days of peace and quiet.

FOR THE SPORT ENTHUSIAST

Do you need a little competition in your life? How about a game or two of

pickleball? New pickleball courts have recently been added and have been a popular hotspot all summer.

Steepleview Golf Course is home to a beautiful 9-hole course, drawing golfers from all over with all abilities. It was built in 1992 on a mildly sloping terrain with Scotch pines and trees lining the fairways. To enhance the difficulty, two ponds were created. Step inside and enjoy the golf simulator on those chillier days.



ALWAYS GROWING

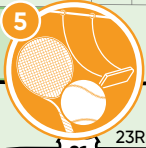
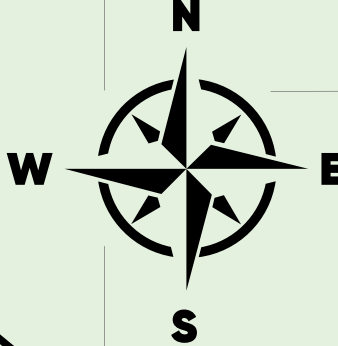
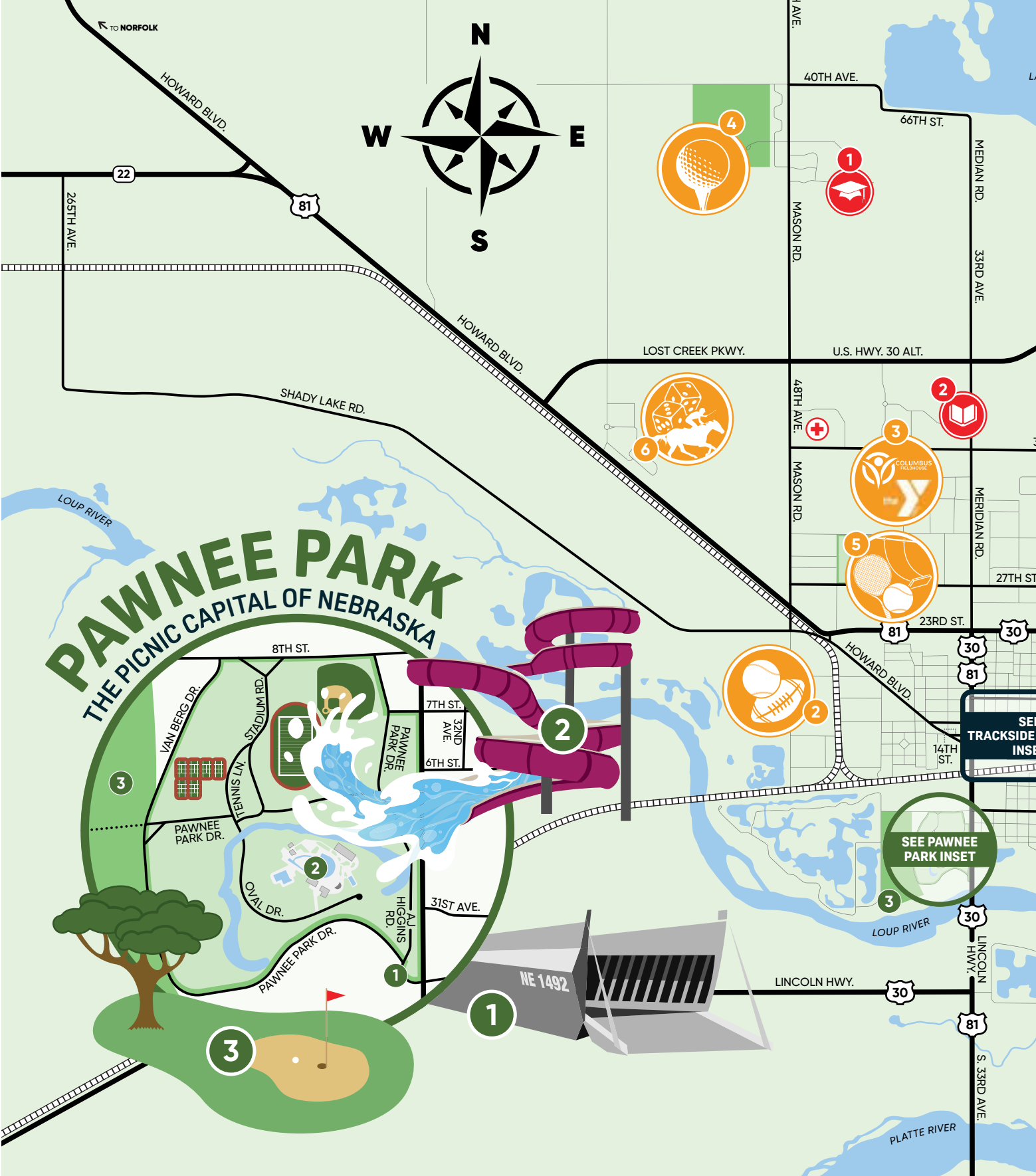
This progressive community also recently completed the Humphrey Fire Station, where volunteers who tirelessly serve now have a facility fitting their growing needs.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

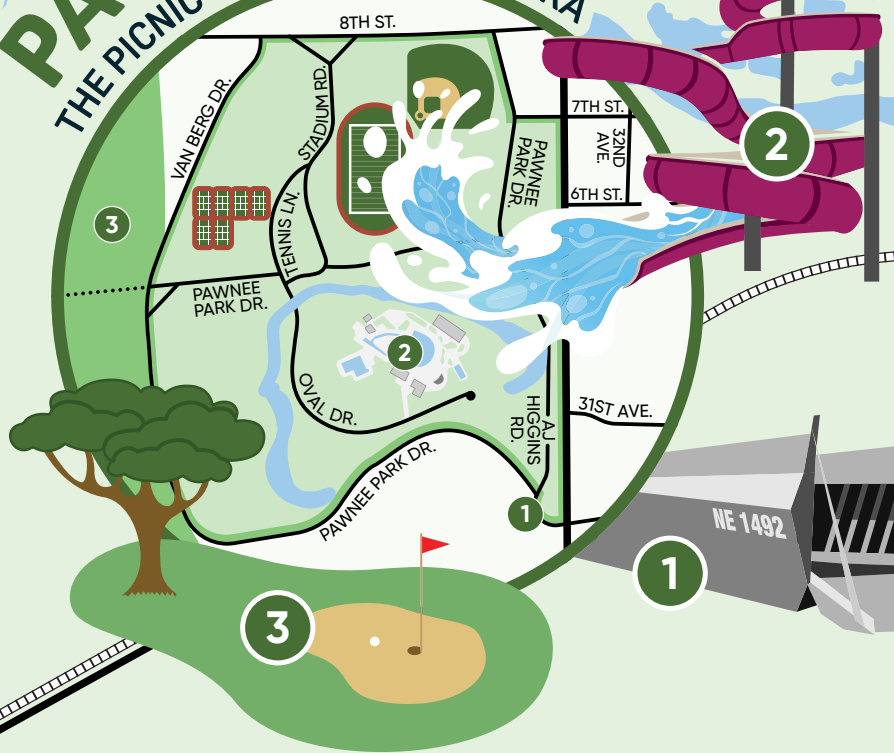
Remember to celebrate **Humphrey Days** each summer and get a jump on your Christmas shopping with the **Highway 91 Expo** each November.



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SEE TRACKSIDE INSET



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LINCOLN HWY.

PLATTE RIVER

TO NORFOLK

22

81

83RD ST.

48TH AVE.

40TH AVE.

66TH ST.

MEDIAN RD.

33RD AVE.

LOST CREEK PKWY.

U.S. HWY. 30 ALT.

SHADY LAKE RD.

HOWARD BLVD.

48TH AVE.

MASON RD.

MERIDIAN RD.

27TH ST.

23RD ST.

30

81

HOWARD BLVD.

SEE TRACKSIDE INSET

14TH ST.

LOUP RIVER

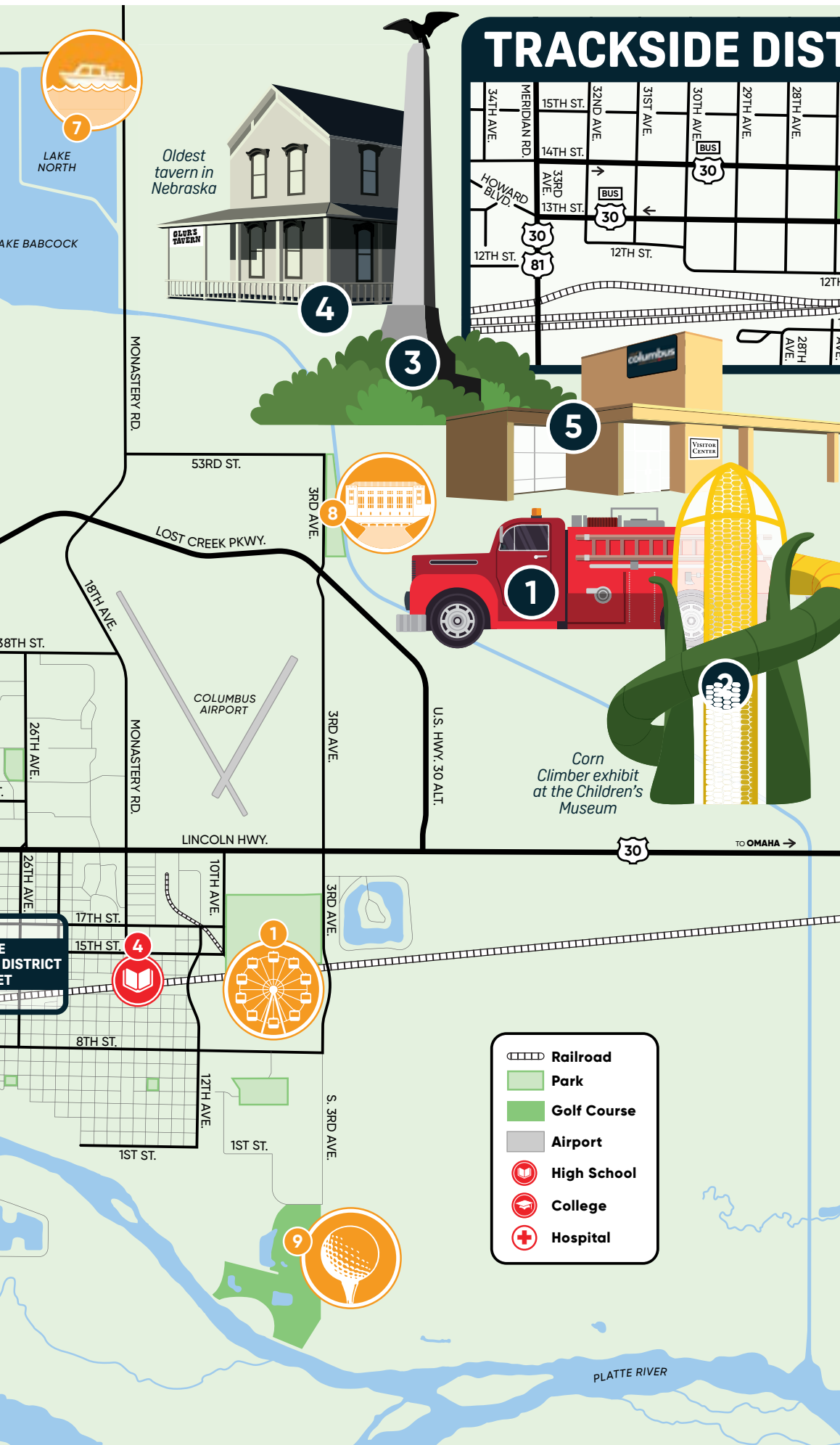
30

81

LINCOLN HWY.

S. 33RD AVE.

TRACKSIDE DISTRICT



Downtown Attractions

- 1 Columbus Area Antique Fire Apparatus Museum
- 2 Community Building/Children's Museum
- 3 Frankfort Square
- 4 Glur's Tavern
- 5 Visitor Center

Pawnee Plunge

- 1 Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial
- 2 Pawnee Plunge
- 3 Van Berg Golf Course

Columbus, NE Attractions

- 1 Agricultural Park
- 2 Bradshaw Park
- 3 Columbus Fieldhouse YMCA
- 4 Elks Country Club Golf Course
- 5 Gerrard Park
- 6 Harrah's Casino/Horse Race Tracks
- 7 Lake North
- 8 Powerhouse Park
- 9 Quail Run Golf Course

Schools

- 1 Central Community College
- 2 Columbus High School
- 3 Lakeview Community School
- 4 Scotus Central Catholic High School

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Not Your Grandfather's
Smoke & Vapor



At the Columbus Area Antique Fire Apparatus Preservation Society (CAAFAPS) museum, you will find **twelve antique fire trucks** and a **1935 4-door Chevy Sedan**, which serves as the collection's fire chief's and parade car.



The trucks represent Columbus, the five surrounding communities of Bellwood, Duncan, Lindsay, Shelby and Silver Creek and the cities of Snyder, Texas, and Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

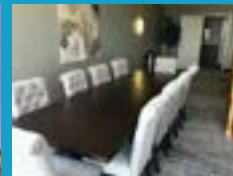
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QUAIL RUN GOLF COURSE

Since opening in 1991, Quail Run has matured into one of the top-ranked public golf courses in Nebraska. The course, with its tempting par 5s, deceiving par 3s, and fair but demanding par 4s, is carved through towering cottonwoods and nestled along the Loup River and historic Old Mormon Trail, offering players a unique experience.

Quail Run offers 5 sets of tees, starting at 5200 yards. From the tips, the 7200-yard layout is a quality test of ability and course management for even the most accomplished player. Quail Run Golf Course is open to the public and has a very accessible tee time policy (7 days in advance).



Scan the code to take the virtual tour around Quail Run for a hole-by-hole, bird's-eye view of the course.



327 South 5th St
Columbus, NE 68601
402-564-1313
quailrungolf.com

Lindsay

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Visit the not-so-quiet little town of Lindsay, and experience family-friendly activities and events for all. The town may be small, but its hospitality makes up for it.

THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO SEE

Take a hike on our walking and biking trails through the scenic park or cast a line in the local fishing pond. Nebraska's weather is always changing, so when the weather deters you from enjoying the beautiful outdoors, adventure to the new state-of-the-art **Event and Wellness Center**.

EVENT AND WELLNESS CENTER

This premier facility will provide a range of options appealing to all ages. With a revolving schedule of activities, check out the calendar for fitness classes and walking track opportunities, or visit the courts for a wide range of games. For a more relaxed and quieter break, venture to the library, where educational sessions are offered—all at the same location.

SHOPPING AND MORE

Maybe you need a quick "pick me up" or shopping fix. **The Farmer's Wife Boutique & Coffee Co.** offers many coffee/tea options and a broad selection of boutique items. Not too

far from here, you find snacks and locally produced meat at the **Lindsay Cooperative Market** and **Melcher's Meat Locker** to quell your hunger cravings. If you're looking for nightlife, Tavern 1888 is the place to go for great conversation, drinks, and a quality meal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our annual summer festival, **Pivot Days**, is held in June; you won't want to miss it! After December, the Event Center will have a full lineup of performers, concerts, athletics, and trade shows for all ages.

Come see us and have fun in the loud and proud Lindsay community!



Proudly locally owned, Prime 10 brings elevated dining and full-service event hosting together under one roof.



Our passion for hospitality, community, and exceptional food shines through in everything we do.

Prime 10 delivers a refined yet welcoming experience that's unmatched in the area.



Unforgettably Delicious





Tarnov

A SMALL TOWN RICH IN HISTORY

Photo compliments of Liz Mays - GetLostInTheUSA.com

Venture off the beaten path and you will find Tarnov, NE, a small town in the heartland rich in history. This is one of those hidden gems everyone should visit.

BOMBED BUT NOT HARMED

The small town is noted for being the only incorporated town in Nebraska to have been accidentally bombed by the U.S. Army during World War II, though with minimal damage and no casualties.

On Aug. 16, 1943, Army Air Forces planes were dropping practice bombs



in preparation for the war. By mistake, they 'bombed' the village, damaging only one house. This incident gave Tarnov a place in history. The crews had apparently mistaken the lights of Tarnov for a bombing range near Stanton, Nebraska.

FIRST POLISH CATHOLIC PARISH IN NEBRASKA THRIVES

The first Polish Catholic parish opened in 1901. The Gothic Revival architecture of the church was built by parish members at no charge and took one year to complete. On October 24, 1901, a special train, with passengers, ran from Columbus to Tarnov to dedicate the newly erected Church. The round-trip fare at that time was 80 cents, and all visitors were served dinner by the ladies of the parish. Bishop Father Czech, with the help of twenty to thirty additional priests, led the dedication.

Ten years later, a rectory, school/convent, and chicken house were built. Today, Saint Michael Rectory has been converted into the **Saint Michael House**. Guests can hold meetings and plan overnight stays to learn more about the facility.



Frank and Sophia Paprocki, immigrants from Tarnov, Poland, donated the land on which the complex stands, hence the township's name.

The pride of the Catholic parishioners is reflected in the way the complex has been well preserved over the years. The building and structures are over 100 years old. Due to excellent construction and being well maintained, the buildings appear the same today as when they were first built.

On November 28, 1990, the Complex was placed in the National Register of Historic Places as a worthy preservation site.

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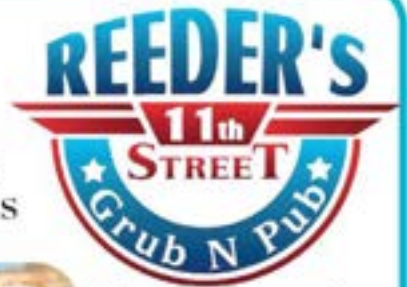
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Friedhof Oak Room

CLASSIC ELEGANCE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

The Friedhof building, renowned for its historic beauty, was meticulously preserved to maintain its classic and original charm. Theodore Friedhof, the namesake of the building, constructed it in 1918 as a dry goods retailer for Columbus. The craftsmanship and style of architecture and carpentry during that era were unparalleled in quality and elegance.

The restoration of this space was undertaken by Rob and Tracy Gasper with utmost care to honor the integrity of the building's vintage style during that era.

The building's restoration accommodates a wide range of events. Its spacious floor plan with high ceilings ensures that the venue remains comfortable and airy even with a guest list of 275. However, its unique feature is its ability to accommodate large-scale events and intimate gatherings in various pockets and corners of the building. This is achieved through the Memories Lounge, Brickside Patio, and the Oak Room main room or upper mezzanine. Additionally, the venue offers fully accessible modern restrooms.

The Oak Room, the venue's largest and most elegant section, is the Crown Jewel of the Friedhof with ample space for larger events.

The Brickside Patio is ideal for smaller, more casual events. Whether it's a game day or hosting friends to celebrate a special occasion, this space offers an open and cozy atmosphere with direct access to the street-side patio, ensuring an impressive experience.

The Memories Lounge provides access to a full bar, live music, an extensive wine list, and a sophisticated ambiance for company happy hours or casual gatherings.



Prime 10 Steakhouse & Venue

A DINING EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER

Columbus’ newest restaurant and venue, Prime 10 Steakhouse & Venue, recently unveiled its new facility, located just off U.S. Hwy 81 and the Columbus bypass. As you walk through the doors, you are embraced by elegance and class. From the sophisticated chandeliers to the stylish seating and well-thought-out decor, the ambience is like no other.

As you can see, the owners, Cory and Stacey Schafer, orchestrated every detail to provide the ultimate experience for you, their customers. Not only does this apply to the décor and your surroundings, but also to their staffing.

MEET EXECUTIVE CHEF GEOFF WENDLAND

Chef Wendland relocated to Columbus to help shape the culinary possibilities in the growing Columbus market. He proclaims his cooking style is ‘deep-seated’ in French techniques and takes pride in always learning and growing his skills. Wendland stated, “I am constantly listening to books by other chefs, looking through Chef

Trend magazines, following up with purveyors, Instagram, and practicing the craft at home as well.”

When asked about his favorite dish, Chef Wendland hesitates to proclaim a favorite, as he enjoys making your favorite dish. He relishes the challenges of cuisine he has never made before, as it allows him to grow as a chef.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TAKEN TO THE NEXT LEVEL

From the moment you walk through the doors to when you savor the last bite of your exquisite dessert, Chef Wendland hopes your vision of the evening has come to fruition. He deeply cares about the customer experience, feeling his role is to craft it by helping his staff grow in their roles.

To complement these goals, he has hired staff who are not just cooks. He located people who care immensely about customer service and go beyond your typical encounter to be ‘unreasonably hospitable’. Each staff member has taken the Chef’s love for food to heart and is continuously growing in their roles.

“I eat, sleep, and dream about food as I want to teach and help foster the next generation with budgeting and cooking skills,” stated Chef Wendland.

So, when you visit Columbus, NE, stop by the steakhouse, enjoy a cocktail, order your favorite meal, and let the staff take care of you. You will leave highly satisfied.



ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTELS	Total Rooms	Non-Smoking	Suites	Handicap	Meeting Room	Pool	Pets Allowed	Complimentary Breakfast	Microwave/ Refrigerator
COLUMBUS INN 371 33rd Ave (402) 564-2527	44	36	2	2			■		■
Wi-Fi • Truck Parking • Guest Laundry									
DAYS INN & SUITES 1716 E 23rd St (402) 564-1266 daysinn.com	70	70	24	3	■		■	■	■
Full Kitchens • Wi-Fi • Fitness Center • Laundry Services • Plug-Ins									
FAIRFIELD INN 5912 Howard Blvd (402) 235-8500	52	52		7	■	■	■	■	■
Fitness Center • Guest Laundry • Outdoor Patio • Fire Pit • Walkway To Casino									
ECONO INN 3803 23rd St (402) 564-9955	39	28	1	2	■		■	■	■
Whirlpool Suite • Wi-Fi									
HAMPTON INN 3536 23rd St (402) 835-2099	80	80		4	■	■	■	■	■
Wi-Fi • Fitness Center • Pool • Spacious Rooms									
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES 524 E 23 St (402) 564-2566	90	88	19	4		■		■	■
Wi-Fi • Fitness Center • Whirlpool • Award-Winning Motel									
MIDWAY MOTEL 26560 St Hwy 81 Humphrey, NE (402) 923-0522	13	9							■
All Ground Level Rooms • Bus Parking • Plug-Ins									
QUALITY INN & RIVERS EDGE CONFERENCE CENTER 265 33rd Ave (402) 835-4350 riversedgecolumbus.com	140	140	2	7	■	■		■	■
Wi-Fi • Fitness Center									
SLEEP INN & SUITES 303 23rd St (402) 562-5200 sleepinncolumbus.com	95	95	12	4			■	■	■
Wi-Fi • Laundry • Fitness Center • Truck Parking									
SUNDOWN MOTEL 3220 8th St (402) 564-2729	22	9	2				■		■
Truck Parking • Plug-Ins • All Ground Level Rooms									
SUPER 8 MOTEL 3324 20th St (402) 563-3456 super8.com	63	47	1	1			■	■	■
Wi-Fi • Plug Ins • Truck Parking • Guest Laundry									
TOWNEPLACE SUITES 5912 Howard Blvd (402) 235-8500	48	48		7	■	■	■	■	■
Fitness Center • Guest Laundry • Outdoor Patio • Fire Pit • Walkway To Casino									
TRAVELODGE 3919 23rd St (402) 562 7595	35	35	4	1			■	■	■
Wi-Fi • Guest Laundry Services									

BED & BREAKFAST	Total Rooms	Non-Smoking	Suites	Handicap	Meeting Room	Complimentary Breakfast	Microwave/ Refrigerator
CEK.LOFT 13th Street, Columbus, NE 68601 airbnb.com/columbus-ne/stays	4	4					■
Enjoy a peaceful stay in a new two bedroom beachfront cottage with a hot tub overlooking the lake.							
COZY CABIN LANE-AIRBNB 26259 249th St., Columbus, NE 68601 (402) 270-3893 cozycabinlane@gmail.com airbnb.com/h/cozycabinlane	3	3	■		■		■
The perfect location to host family gatherings or a weekend to catch up with friends!							
THE NEIGHBORHOOD SANCTUARY - AIRBNB 3770 18th Ave., Columbus, NE 68601 providingpropertysolutions.com/ book-your-stay	3	3	■		■		■
Beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath property in what used to be a church. This is a great place to hold events and meetings.							
THE WILD PLUM BED & BREAKFAST 30429 257th Ave., Platte Center, NE 68653 402-246-9248 thewildplumbnb@gmail.com wildplumbnb.com	5	5	3	1		■	■
Gorgeous rural setting! There are a wide variety of rooms to fit your style and comfort.							
CAMPGROUNDS	Availability	RV Amenities**	Tent Camping	Rest Facilities***	Admission Fees		
CAMP PAWNEE 2330 S. 16th St. • (402) 363-8035 • camppawnee@yahoo.com	May 1 -Nov 1	E, W	■	F	■		
10 hookups/spaces for camping • 2 Buildings for Rent • Family Reunions, Weddings, Etc.							
HWY 81 RV PARK 23817-242nd Ave. • (402) 564-2691 • highway81rvpark.webs.com	May 1 -Nov 1	E, W, S			■		
Pull-through, level spaces with full hookups • 22 trailers							
HUMPHREY CAMPING AREA 608 County Rd., Humphrey • (402) 923-1158	Year round	E, W					
2 trailers							
LAKE NORTH* 4 miles north at US Hwy. 30 & 18th Ave. (402) 562-5709 • (402) 564-3171 • loup.com	May 1 -Nov 1	E, W	■	P	■		
100 tents, 25 trailers							
LITTLE VILLAGE CAMPGROUND 240 4th St., Platte Center • (402) 270-1422 • littlevillagecampground.com	Year round	E, W, S			■		
9 RV Hookups							
LOUP PARK* (402) 562-5709 or (402) 564-3171 • loup.com 4 miles north at US Hwy. 30 & 18th Ave., 1. mile W.	May 1 -Nov 1	E, W	■	P			
120 tents, 30 trailers							
MIDWAY MOTEL CAMP 26560 St. Hwy. 81 • (402) 923-0522	Year round	E, W, S			■		
6 Trailers							
POWERHOUSE PARK* (402) 562-5709 or (402) 564-3171 • loup.com 1.5 miles north at US Hwy. 30 & 3rd Ave.	Year round		■	P			
20 tents, 6 trailers							
RIVER LAND CABINS & CAMPGROUND (402) 910-8166 • 3919 SE 16th St., Columbus NE 68601 riverlandcampcabins@gmail.com	Year round	E, W, S	■	R, S	■		
30 RV Hookups, tent camping and 4 cabins							
TAILRACE PARK* (402) 562-5709 or (402) 564-3171 • loup.com 3 miles east on 8th St., 1 mile south	Year round		■	P			
30 tents							
MAPLE CREEK RECREATION AREA Rd. 1A at Leigh • (402) 371-7313 • lenrd.org/maple-creek-recreation-area	Year round	E, W	■	F, S	■		
10 tents, 50 RV camping sites							
*7 DAY STAY LIMIT WITHIN A 30-DAY PERIOD **E = ELECTRICITY W = WATER S = SEWER ***F = FLUSH TOILETS P = PIT TOILETS S = SHOWERS							

Regina's Kitchen

A TASTE OF HOME

Everyone has a unique story and Regina from Regina's Kitchen is no different. Life presents challenges and opportunities and that is exactly how Regina got to where she is today.

Regina was born and raised in Nebraska but moved to New Jersey to become a nanny for a year, but she quickly fell in love – with the food, the culture and the people.

That year turned into 29 filled with good fortune – great jobs, owning homes and traveling, coupled with challenges – divorcing, losing her job, her home and her truck and turning to alcohol to cope. Two weeks from having to surrender her pets and moving into a shelter, her family offered to help her return to Nebraska for a fresh start.

COMING HOME

Thankfully, Regina landed in Columbus where she ran the lunch counter at Tooley's. "I've always worked in and around food and with people," stated Regina. "I had never cooked for people



before, other than just hosting at my own home."

All her travels, all her vacations, were centered around food. "I went to Italy and made Parmesan. I stayed on a farm in Wales for a week and learned to make the cheeses indigenous to their family and their area." Regina went on to say, "It was just what I did. And ironically, I was a wine buyer for the East Coast while at Whole Foods."

Covid hit in 2020, and in late June, Tooley's decided to keep their luncheonette closed. Regina knew she'd miss the people she cared about while there, but God had a bigger plan in mind for her. That same day she received a call from a woman whose friend wanted to close her little restaurant called 'Grandma's Kitchen'.

She looked at it, she researched grants and spoke to friends about the opportunity. One friend and her husband, without a second thought, loaned her the startup money – a true blessing!

There was a lot of work to be done but her dream was coming to reality. "Nobody ever trusted me like that before," said Regina. She had no money and was flat broke, yet people showed up for her. There were 56 people from church who helped that month, tearing things apart and putting things back together while Regina learned the ins and outs of running a restaurant.

The doors opened August 7, 2020 and Regina's Kitchen and Catering was a reality. Since then, Regina makes sure she pays it forward when opportunities arise.



CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Her customers are the most important part of her business which is where her success lies. She truly wants to take care of you and give you the best experience. She may not be a grandma, but Regina will make sure you feel welcomed with her homecooked meals. And if it's not on the menu, she will make what your heart desires.

A PLACE TO GATHER

One thing you will notice is that there are no clocks on the walls. "I want my customers to know this is a place for fellowship," said Regina. "They should know this is a place to gather with no time limit."

In March, Regina rolled out the **Gelato Factory** making sorbetto and gelato, Italian ice cream. She has created her factory on the upper level where everything is made in-house. The ice cream is denser and more flavorful and oh so good! Regina's is the only place in town who makes ice cream, so you won't want to pass up the chance to try it.

So, if you are ready for a downhome, neighborly experience, look no further, Regina's Kitchen will take care of you!



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Monroe

AN OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST'S OASIS

Photo compliments of 'Days Gone by Photography', Kathy Chase.

Are you looking for some outdoor fun? Maybe a unique experience? Hop on Hwy. 22 and you will find Monroe, Nebraska. The town was established in the 1850s and named after James Monroe, the fifth president of the US. At that time, no other community (in the United States) had yet been named in his honor. The area was heavily traveled due to the Mormon Trail and was, therefore, the county seat for a short while.

SIMPLY WILD EXPLORATIONS

Adventure, wild animals, scaly creatures, it's all in one place – the **Horn T Zoo!** The outdoor facility located in Monroe is family-owned and operated, and open from late spring to early fall. The small-town zoo connects people with wildlife from Nebraska and the rest of the world. The owners take pride in inspiring caring for nature and advanced conservation through education, recreation, breeding, and survival. Explore all the zoo has to offer!

Watch the ring-tail lemurs fly gracefully through the air, get up close and personal with the zebras, learn about Zoo Tours, and touch an American alligator. Who could ask for much more?!

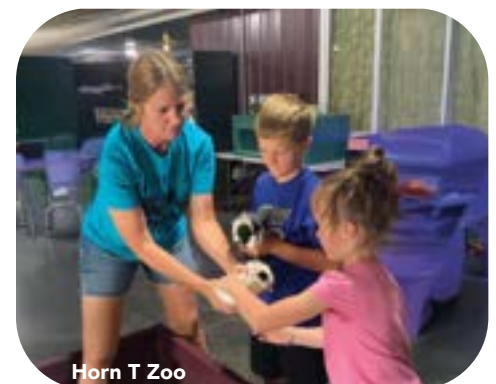
ADVENTURE AWAITS

Are you ready to explore nature and up your adventure game? Grab your boat, canoe, or kayak and travel south of Monroe to reach the **Monroe Access Point** to the Loup River. (Shallow draft canoes/kayaks are recommended during low water conditions.) Get ready for a 6-to-8-hour float on your 16-mile trek through the tree-covered banks of the river. Keep your eyes peeled for red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, beavers, raccoons, deer, various plant species, and more as you meander down the river. You will experience a day soaking up the sun and surroundings while seeing Mother Nature live – it will be quite the adventure!

A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY

If you want to experience a bit of history, the one-story **Monroe Congregational Church** with a gabled roof and the **New Hope Cemetery** are located in the nearby community of O'Kay. It's a friendly country church that takes you back to simpler times. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

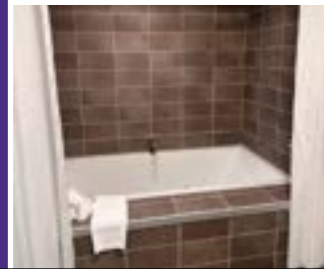
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