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For Immediate Release

Second Chapter Brewing Selected as Official 2023 Nebraska Passport Stop

Renovated former library now open as microbrewery and taproom

Second Chapter Brewing, located in the former Goodall City Library in Downtown Ogallala, and Lake Mac Shack, the on-site food truck, are pleased to announce that they have been selected as an official 2023 Nebraska Passport stop by Tourism Nebraska. The Passport inspires Nebraskans and tourists to travel throughout the state collecting stamps to earn prizes while also supporting Nebraska's tourism destinations and local businesses. Passports will be available at participating stops starting May 1 or can be pre-ordered at NebraskaPassport.com.

Second Chapter Brewing opened for business in January 2023 in downtown Ogallala. Patrons can enjoy quality craft beer, brewed in-house in the beautiful, renovated former library. The taproom has a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere where you can view the brewery production space or sit on a shaded deck in warmer weather.

Brewery owners Lisa Kraus and Richard Gibson purchased the former Goodall City Library in 2021 after an open, public call from the City of Ogallala for the "best proposed use" of the former library building. The brewery was pitched as an opportunity to create a family-friendly environment, enhancing downtown and becoming a destination for both tourists and residents. Kraus and Gibson had been looking for a way to bring a new amenity to Kraus' hometown and to start a new chapter for themselves as business owners.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity presented by the City of Ogallala in purchasing and repurposing the building, which has so much character and history," Kraus said. "We could not have completed this project without the community's support or without the assistance of the Community Redevelopment Authority and LB-840 Economic Development Act."

This business represents a "Second Chapter" in several ways. Not only is this a new chapter for the building and for the business owners, but this is a new chapter for the Kraus family, which has a pre-Prohibition brewing legacy. Kraus' great grandfather, Louis Kraus, was the majority owner and head brewer at Hastings Brewing Company, prior to the enactment of Prohibition. Furthermore, the owners have also sought to apply creative and adaptive reuse of items throughout the project, and share stories about those elements.

The building was originally constructed as an American Legion Hall in 1927. In subsequent years, it saw use as a roller-skating rink and an elementary school during the construction of Kingsley Dam and Lake McConaughy. In 1954, following the failure of a ballot initiative that sought to purchase the building for use as city hall and a public library, the building was purchased by Robert and Clarice Goodall and gifted to the city of Ogallala for use as a library. The 2020 opening of the new Kathleen Lute Library in Ogallala led to the public sale of the former library space.

The renovation has restored the original maple floors, full-sized windows, and tin ceiling. It has also reestablished the main entrance at the south end of the building.

“We were inspired by the investments and improvements in the downtown area over the past several years,” Gibson said. “We hope that our building renovation and new business will encourage others to continue that trend.”

The brewery has 12 taps and features a five-barrel brew system. Gibson, who learned to homebrew when the couple lived on the east coast, has developed commercial recipes in collaboration with other brewers. They currently include a number of old-world classic styles, such as the Bavarian Brothers (German Pils), Witty Librarian (Belgian Wit), and Czeched Out (Czech Dark Lager). With nods to local history or local ingredients, the Goodall Golden (Golden Ale), Drunken Sentinel (American Pale Ale), and Good Beer-y Farm Sour (Aronia Berry American Farm Sour Ale) are styles that have been made popular in the American craft brew movement. The local favorite, a gluten-free seltzer called Trashy Romance (Apple Cider Seltzer), is served with a cinnamon sugar garnish.

Second Chapter Brewing guests are invited to order food from the food truck based on site, or bring in their own food. Light snacks are also available in the taproom.

Second Chapter Brewing is grateful to the community for their support and invites everyone to visit the craft brewery taproom and participate in its upcoming grand opening celebrations on March 23-24. The schedule of grand opening activities is available at: <https://secondchapterbrewing.com/blog/grand-opening-celebrations>.

Second Chapter Brewing is located at 203 West A Street in Ogallala, Nebraska. The taproom is open Wednesdays and Thursdays 4-8pm, Fridays and Saturdays 11am-10pm, and Sundays 11am-6pm. More information is available at www.secondchapterbrewing.com or on Facebook and Instagram.

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