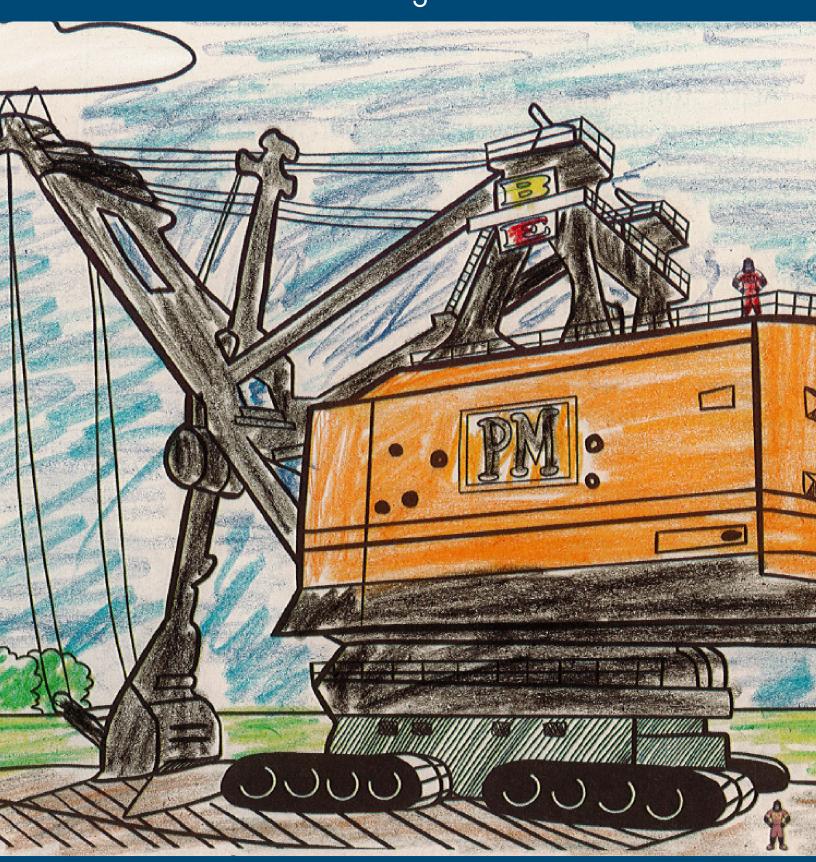
Gus the Gorilla Explores Southeast Kansas Coloring Book



Gus explores Southeast Kansas

Produced by Explore Crawford County in cooperation with Pittsburg State University and the PSU Art Department, and printed in cooperation with PittCraft Printing and US Awards.

Artists included:

Claire Bruening (2024 graduate) Jamesha Hawkins (2024 graduate)

Briana Carranza (2023) Peyton Lemons

Collin Chaney (2022) Abby McCoy (2021)

Ali Doll (2022) James Oliver

Olivia Frazier (2019) Katelyn Phelps (2022)

George Hatcher (2023) Devynn Pitts (2024)



ExploreCrawfordCounty.com

117 West 4th Street, Pittsburg Facebook.com/ExploreCrawfordCounty



pittstate.edu pittstate.edu/art

1701 South Broadway Street, Pittsburg Facebook.com/pittstate



PittCraft.com

603 East Washington Street, Pittsburg Facebook.com/PittcraftPrinting



USAwards.com

603 East Washington Street, Pittsburg Facebook.com/USAwards

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I go to school at My favorite thing to color was I hope my family takes me to



Pittsburg State: Home of the Gorillas

Home of the Gorillas

Only one college in the United States has a gorilla mascot: **Pittsburg State University** in Southeast Kansas.



But, why Gorillas?

In 1920, if you were called "a gorilla," it meant you were rowdy. But, at that time, what is now known as Pittsburg State was still a small school and a group of students did not think there was enough school spirit. They started a student club and called themselves "Gorillas," making their first appearance at an all school assembly on October 7, 1920. What started as a club with 26 students became very popular and grew quickly.

Gus the Gorilla & friends

Gus the Gorilla first appeared as a cartoon in 1923. A few years later, on January 15, 1925, the school adopted the gorilla as its official mascot. Gus makes regular appearances at sporting events, parades, and other activities. There are now thousands of gorilla statues in yards, and several sculptures throughout campus.

Champions Plaza Gorilla

1705 South Joplin, Pittsburg (This sculpture is just east of Carnie Smith Stadium)

Pittsburg State University

1701 South Broadway, Pittsburg www.pittstate.edu Facebook.com/pittstate

Artwork by Collin Chaney

Change

5- Gus Explores Southeast Kansas



Historic Riverside Park overlooking Neosho River falls

Riverside Park sits on a bluff above the Neosho River Valley. The overlook provides a spectacular view, used since the 1800s by Native Americans and settlers to view wildlife and travelers below.

The park includes trails, a playground, and a swimming pool. It is home to the annual **OswegoFest** each October and is adjacent to the fairgrounds, where the annual **Labette County Fair** is held.

Historic Riverside Park

207 Riverside Park Drive, Oswego www.OswegoKansas.com

Labette County Fair

www.LabetteCountyFair.com Facebook.com/LabetteCountyFair Artwork by Katelyn Phelps



Fort Scott National Historic Site

This fort was on the edge of the western frontier, with troops taking part in the Mexican-American War and the Civil War. Fort Scott was the first location where African Americans volunteered to serve and were trained for combat by the Union. Every April a **Spring Civil War Encampment** is held with reenactors wearing period costumes, playing games, and baking and cooking as they did in the 1800s.

The fort is walking distance to historic Downtown Fort Scott, where the Good Ol' Days Festival is held in June. Also downtown is the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, a museum with stories by high school students from across the nation about little known heroes who made a difference. One exhibit is about a group of Southeast Kansas students who saved the story of a Holocaust hero and told it to the world, earning her a Nobel Peace Price candidacy.

Fort Scott National Historic Site

199 Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott www.NPS.gov/FOSC Facebook.com/FortScottNPS

Artwork by Abby McCoy

Fort Scott Good Ol Days

www.FortScottGoodOlDays.com Facebook.com/FortScottGoodOlDays

Lowell Milken Center

1 South Main Street, Fort Scott www.LowellMilkenCenter.org Facebook.com/LowellMilkenCenter

9 - Gus Explores Southeast Kansas



Tolen Creek Park sculptures, Parsons

Tolen Creek Park

Enjoy a picnic by a stone house built in the 1890s plus more than 1.5 miles of natural walking trails. Sculptures includes a 6-foot stone turtle and a nearly 10-foot tall head of a Native American.

Tolen Creek Park is the site of the **Iron Horse 5K and Fun Run**, which are a part of the **Katy Days Festival** held every May.

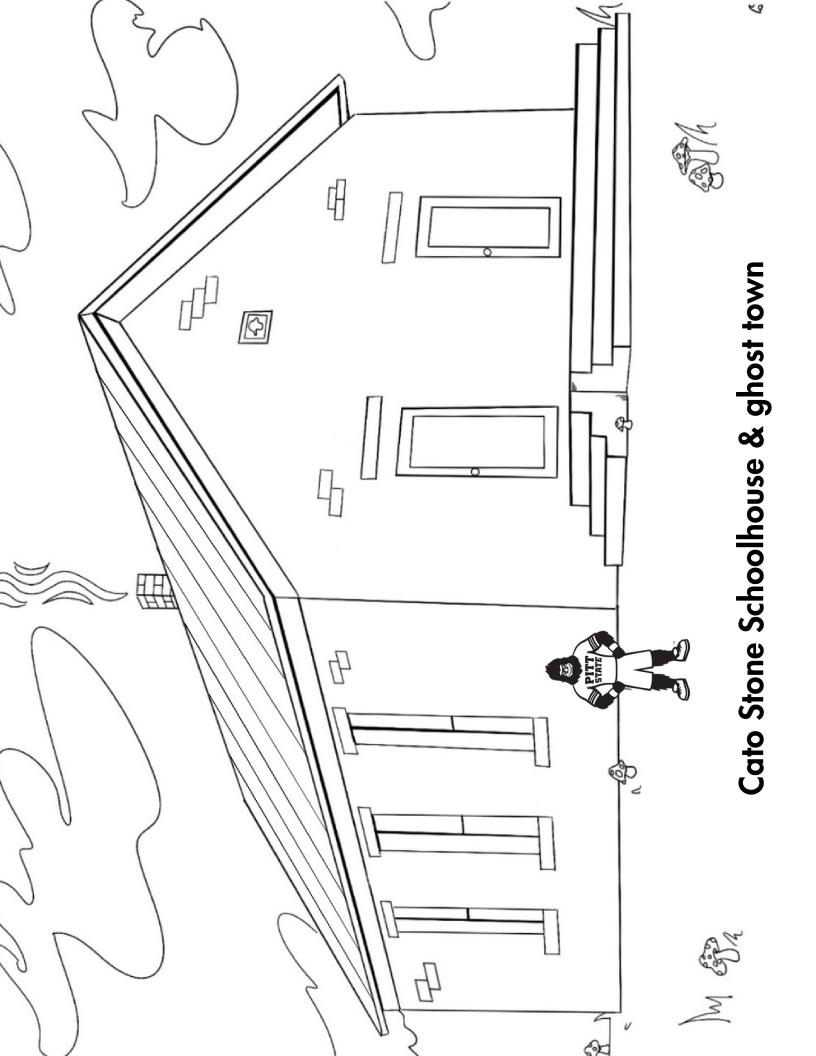
Tolen Creek Park

1400 Cattle Drive, Parsons

Katy Days Festival

www.KatyDays.com Facebook.com/KatyDaysParsons

Artwork by Olivia Frazier



Cato Stone Schoolhouse & Ghost Town

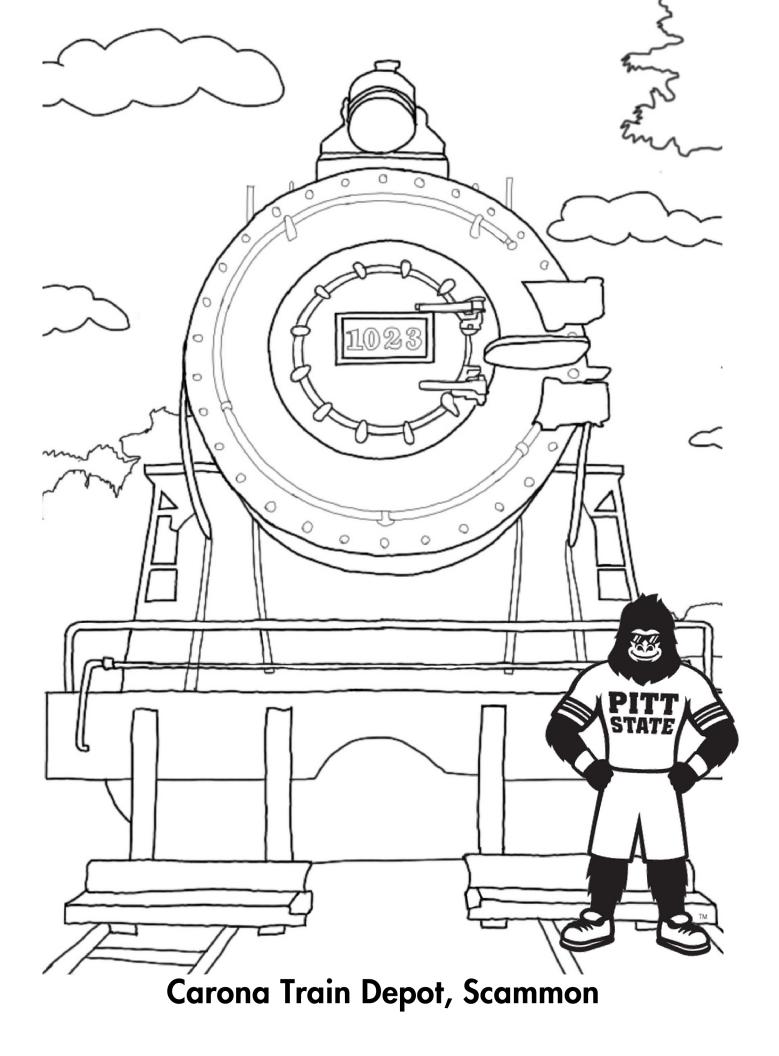
Cato was founded in 1854 along a stagecoach route, and was one of the first communities settled in Southeast Kansas. Crawford County was established in 1867 and its first fair was held near Cato that same year, but only for that one year.

The first schoolhouse in Crawford County was a log cabin built in Cato in 1867. It was replaced in 1869 with a still-standing one-room school built of stone. Never a large town, Cato's population peaked at 112 residents in 1910, but classes at the school continued through 1955.

A heritage marker is on site. Once a year this pioneer-era community comes alive for the **Cato Ghost Town Day Festival** held each Fall.

Cato Stone Schoolhouse & Ghost Town 1153 North 200th Street, Arcadia www.CatoSchool.com Facebook.com/CatoSchool

Art Work By: Ali Doll



Heart of the Heartlands Carona Depot & Railroad Museum

This open-air museum and indoor museum are the result of area collectors sharing their love for all things train related. Located in the former mining community of Carona, it includes multiple depots, numerous working rail cars, and folk art. It is also the home of a restored steam locomotive that was once on display in a park in nearby Pittsburg.

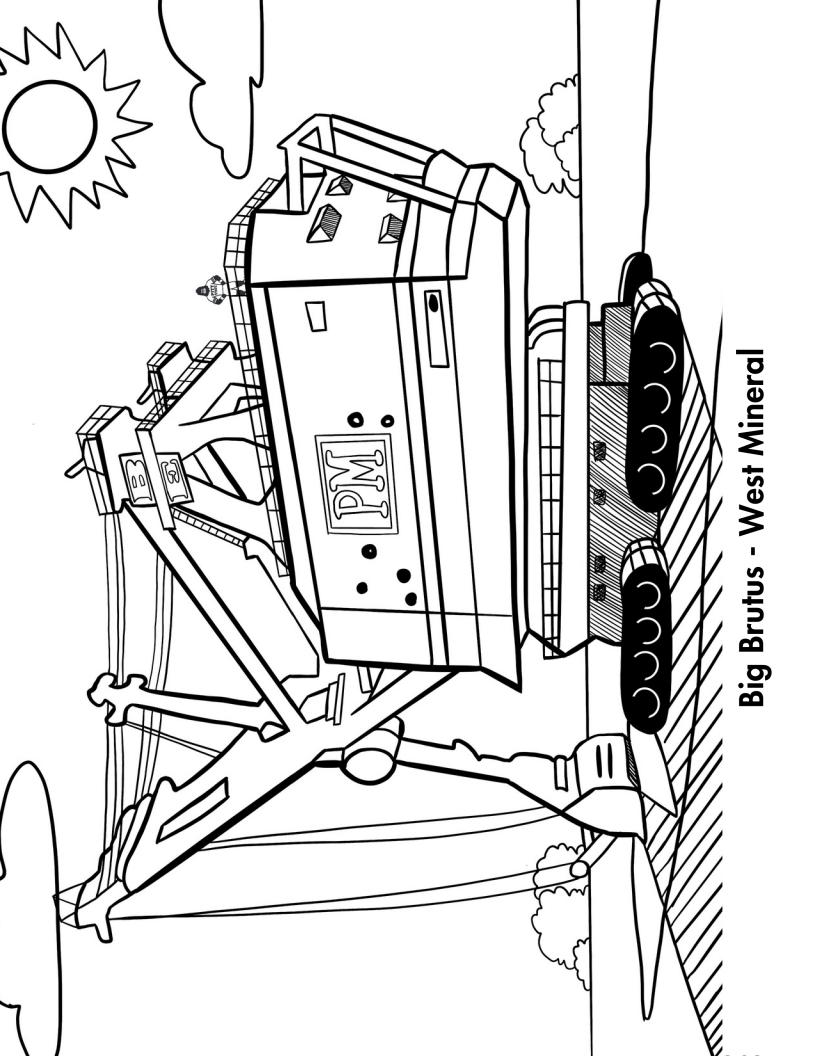
Artwork by Jamesha Hawkins

Heart of the Heartlands

Carona Depot & Railroad Museum

6769 Northwest 20th Street, Scammon www.HeartlandsTrainClub.org

Facebook.com/HeartOfTheHeartlandsTrainClub



King Coal

From the 1850s through the 1970s coal mining was very important to Southeast Kansas. People burned coal to heat their homes. It was used to generate electricity and power trains. The mining industry provided jobs. Today, it is difficult to understand just how important coal was to Southeast Kansas unless you know where to look.

Big Brutus

At 16 stories tall, and retired since 1974, **Big Brutus** is still the world's largest surviving electric shovel. It removed dirt so smaller equipment could get to the coal underneath. Big Brutus sits in the last pit it dug, but it is still so big it can be seen from miles away. Several events are held at Big Brutus throughout the year, including a music festival called the **Big Iron Overland Rally**.

Lake Big Brutus

Big Brutus is surrounded by several lakes that do not look normal. That is because they are not natural lakes and they were not made by a dam. They are pits dug out by Big Brutus allowed to become lakes.

Big Brutus monument & museum

6509 Northwest 60th Street, West Mineral www.BigBrutus.org

Big Iron Overland Rally

www.BigIronOverlandRally.com Facebook.com/BigIronOverlandRally

Artwork by Brianna Carranza



Fried Chicken Paradise

Six of the oldest chicken restaurants in Kansas are located in Crawford County. All are more than 50 years old. Their cheap and delicious chicken dinners fed travelers, and helped miners and local families who survived mining disasters, the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, and multiple wars. They created jobs, and were a comforting escape from real hardship.

Chicken Annie and Chicken Mary were not sisters or cousins. But, Chicken Annie's grandson married Chicken Mary's granddaughter.

Chicken Annie's Original (Established 1934) 1143 East 600th Avenue, Pittsburg www.ChickenAnniesOriginal.com

Chicken Mary's (1942) 1133 East 600th Avenue, Pittsburg www.ChickenMarys1942.com

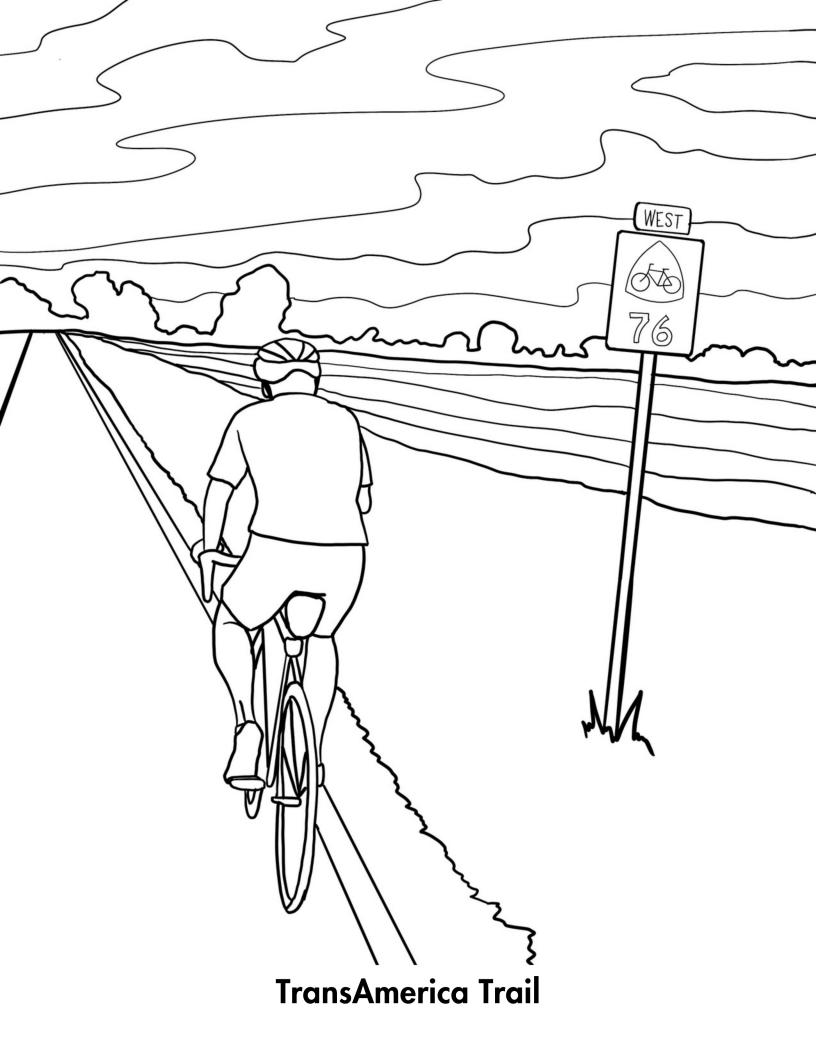
Gebhardt's Chicken Dinners (1946) 124 North 260th Street, Mulberry

Barto's Idle Hour (1951) 201 Santa Fe Street, Frontenac www.BartosIdleHour.com

Pichler's Chicken Annie's (1970) 1271 South 220th Street, Pittsburg www.PichlersChickenAnnies.com

Chicken Annie's Girard (1971) 498 East KS-47, Girard www.ChickenAnnie's Girard Cli Doll

Art Work By: Ali Doll

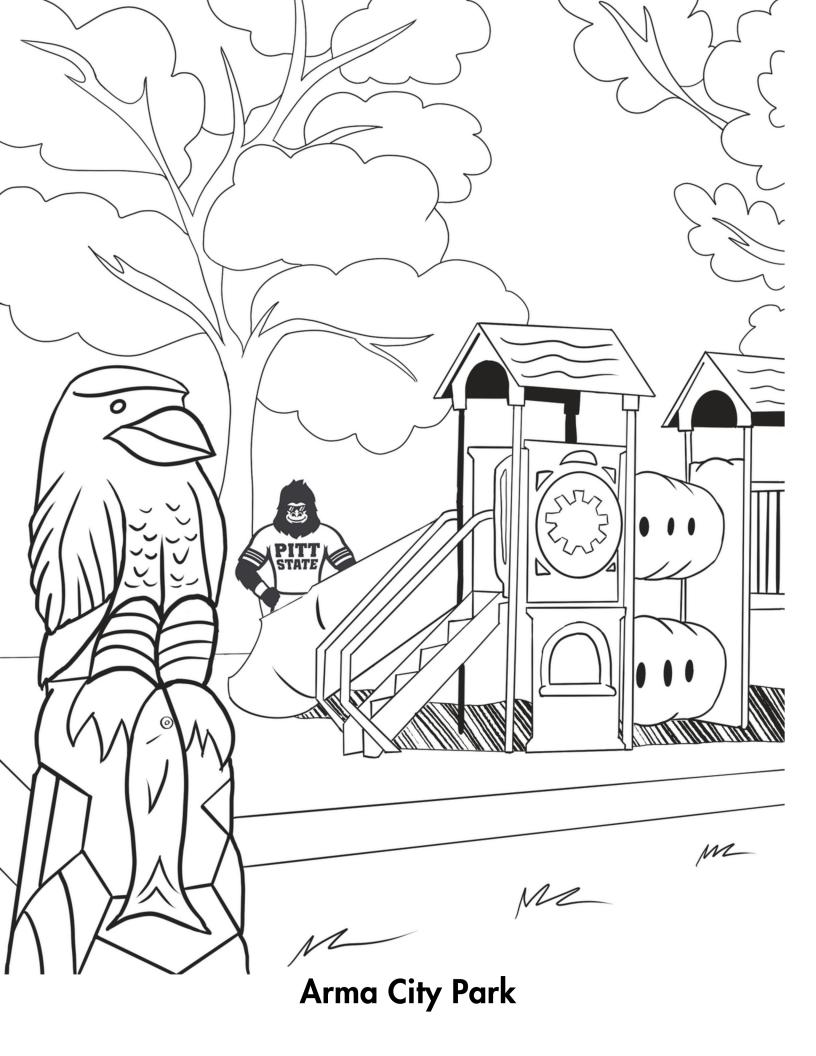


TransAmerica Trail

Keep your eyes open from Spring through Fall for long distance cyclists from across the globe riding across the U.S. to see the country. Multiple routes are available, including **U.S. Bicycle Route 76** (**USBR-76**), which brings them through Southeast Kansas. These travelers can be seen along Kansas Highway 146 through Walnut, on Kansas Highway 7 through Girard, and on Kansas Highway 126 through Pittsburg. Each summer there is a race across the country using USBR-76, and riders are not allowed to get help from anyone else.

A second route through Southeast Kansas follows Historic Route 66 - **U.S. Bicycle Route 66 (USBR-66)**, which takes riders through Baxter Springs, Riverton, and Galena.

Artwork by Abby McCoy



Arma City Park

Plan a picnic in the park! There is play equipment for kids, horseshoe game sets and Bocce - perfect for any family. Enjoy carved statues in the park created by a local chainsaw artist.

The city park and Downtown Arma are home to one of the oldest homecomings in the nation each Fall. What began as a homecoming for World War II veterans has become a well-loved family festival for more than 75 years. Today, the **Arma Homecoming** is also the host of the **Southeast Kansas Bed Race Derby**.

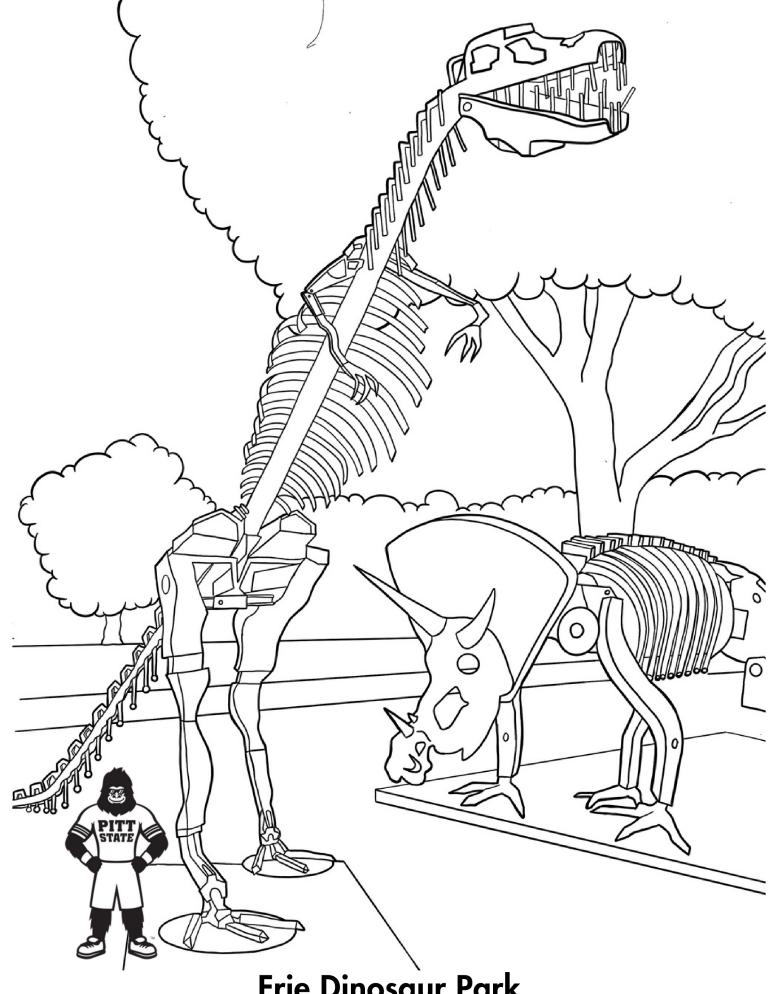
Arma City Park

251 North 5th Street, Arma www.CityOfArmaKS.org

Artwork by Katelyn Phelps

Southeast Kansas Bed Race Derby & Arma V-J Homecoming

www.ArmaHomecoming.com
Facebook.com/ArmaVJHomecoming



Erie Dinosaur Park

Erie Dinosaur Park

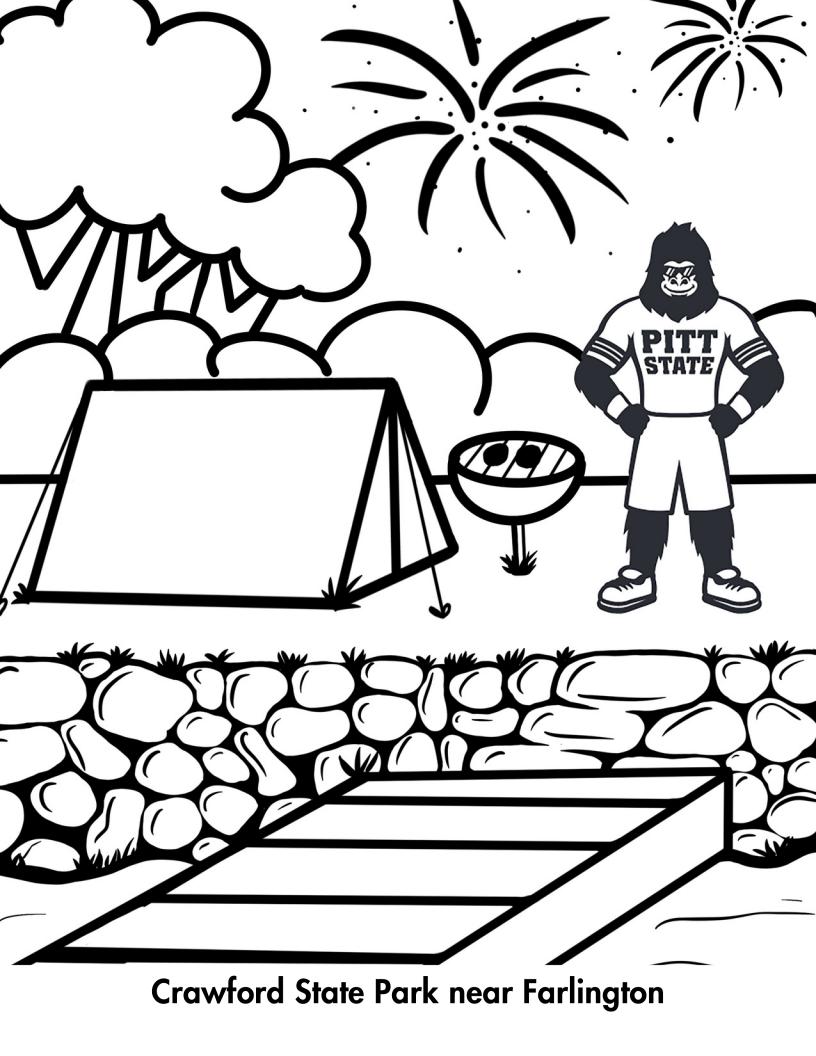
Old automotive parts and junk metal were used by a retired Air Force engineer to create more than 15 dinosaurs. The largest is a brontosaurus, which is more than 30 feet long.

Erie is home to one of the oldest veterans reunions in the U.S.: The **Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunion**, which has been held every July since 1873. In addition to the veterans parade, there is live music, kids' games, and more.

Erie Dinosaur Park

East 4th Street, Erie Facebook.com/DinosaurParkKS

Artwork by Olivia Frazier



Crawford State Park

This small state park is a hidden gem for camping and recreation. It is located where rolling plains meet the Ozark foothills and includes one of the oldest man-made lakes in the state. It includes a swimming beach and playground, multiple trails, and is ideal for fishing and kayaking.

Live music is performed from a café overlooking the lake every Friday evening, from the Spring through Summer.

Also, every year on July 2, there is an **Independence celebration** with a fireworks display from the dam over the lake.

Crawford State Park

1 West Lake Road, Farlington Facebook.com/CrawfordStateParkKS



Gunn Park, Fort Scott

Fort Scott's Gunn Park

Gunn Park, open since 1910, is along the Marmaton River and includes two lakes. It is more than 150 acres and includes multiple playgrounds, a disc golf course, plus 6.5 miles of mostly wooded single-track mountain bike trails. Every September it is home to the Marmaton Massacre Marathon & Festival.

Gordon Parks - The hero of artists

The Learning Tree Film Scene Sign Trail includes a stop at Gunn Park. This film was written and directed by Fort Scott native, Gordon Parks, an internationally renowned photographer, filmmaker, writer, and musician. Marmaton Riverfront Park has a mural of Parks. Every October, the Gordon Parks Celebration uses his life story to teach about cultural awareness, belonging, and artistic creativity.

Gunn Park

1010 Park Avenue, Fort Scott GunnParkTrails.com Facebook.com/GunnParkTrails

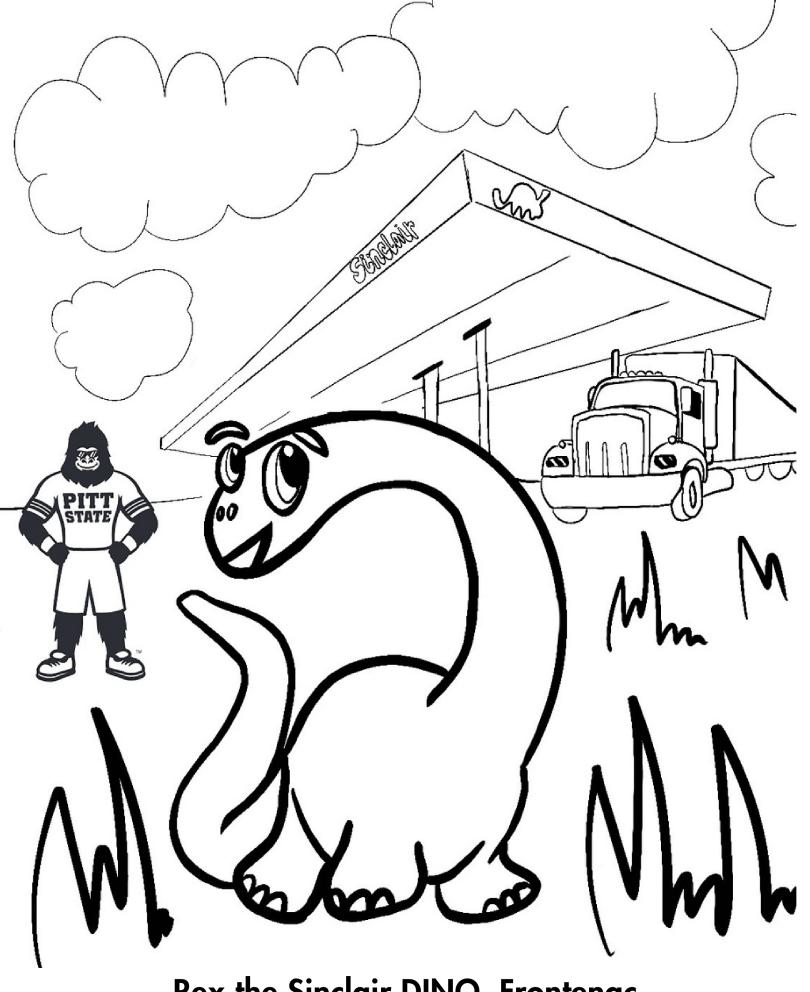
Gordon Parks Museum

2108 Horton Street, Fort Scott GordonParksCenter.org Facebook.com/FSCCGPMuseum

Marmaton Riverfront Park

400 North National Avenue, Fort Scott

29 - Gus Explores Southeast Kansas



Rex the Sinclair DINO, Frontenac

Rex the Sinclair Dinosaur

A transportation icon since the 1930s, fiberglass dinosaurs at Sinclair gas stations have been popular photo ops since the 1960s. Pose with Frontenac's "Rex" then pop inside for a Slushie.

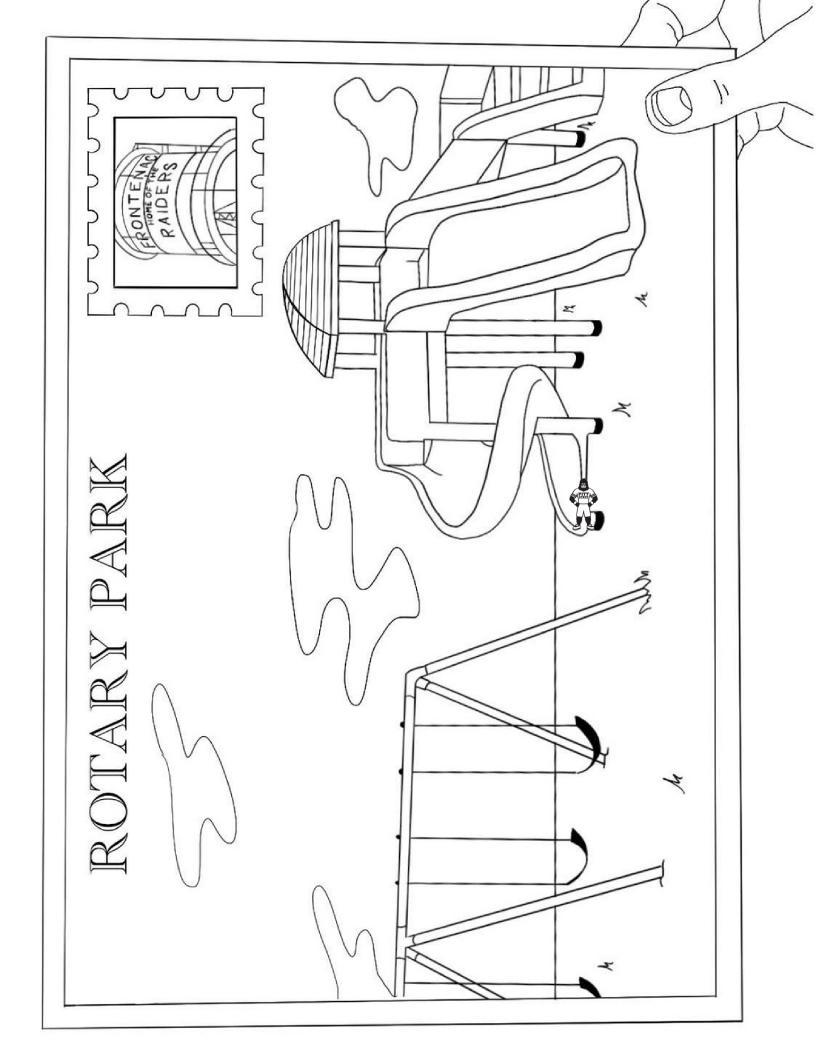
Frontenac Mining Days

Frontenac celebrates it's immigrant and mining heritage each summer during **Frontenac Mining Days**. Learn the town's history in a pop-up museum, ride carnival rides, see the antique car show, and enjoy the street dance.

Rex the Sinclair Dinosaur 325 East McKay Street, Frontenac

Frontenac Mining Days
Facebook.com/FrontenacHomecoming





Frontenac Rotary Park

This park has something for everyone. It includes an outdoor swimming pool, playground, pavilions, a skate park, and ballfields of various sizes.

Festa Italiana

Frontenac Rotary Park is next to the Raider Sports Complex, which hosts an annual fundraiser for scholarships in a unique way that happens to honor the region's immigrant heritage. Since 1999, Festa Italiana has served up Italian food as a way to support local students. Enjoy homemade foods from Italy and hear family stories from throughout the generations. (ili 1)oll

Frontenac Rotary Park

500 East McKay Street, Frontenac

Art Work By: Ali Doll

Festa Italiana

www.FrontenacEdFoundation.org Facebook.com/FrontenacEducationFoundation



Historic Route 66

Historic Route 66 winds through Kansas for 13.2 miles. It's a stretch international travelers do not miss. The last **Rainbow Arch Bridge** on the entire route is just north of Baxter Springs. The **Old Riverton Store** has been feeding travelers since 1925, when it was still old Jefferson Highway. And if Downtown Galena feels like Radiator Springs from the Disney-Pixar series "Cars," that's because it influenced designers working on the movie. Come celebrate the **Galena Days Festival on Route 66** each June or stop by anytime to see replicas of Doc, Sheriff, and the original 1951 International Boom Truck that caught the attention of animators and inspired what Tow Mater would look like.

Eisler Brothers Old Riverton Store

7109 KS-66, Riverton
OldRivertonStore.com
Facebook.com/OldRivertonStore
7109 SE Highway 66 Riverton

Artwork by Brianna Carranza

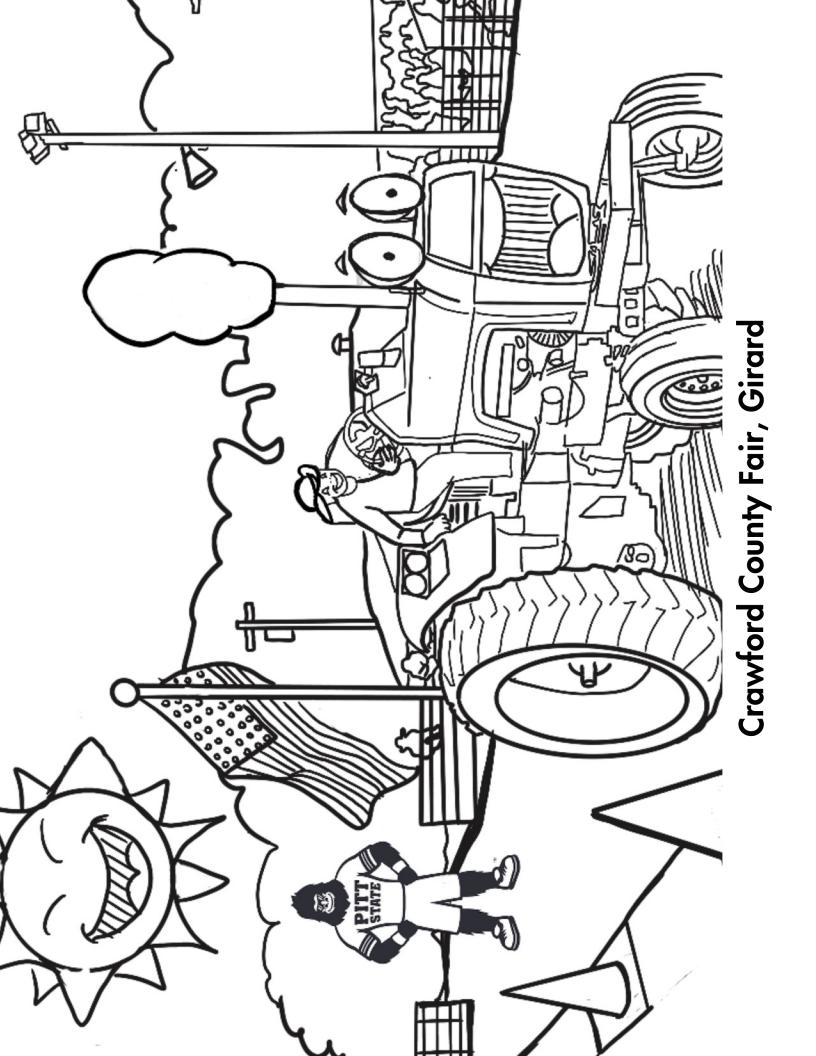
Cars on the Route

119 North Main Street, Galena Facebook.com/CarsOnTheRoute

Brush Creek Bridge (aka "Rainbow Bridge") Southeast Beasley Road, Baxter Springs

Galena Days Festival on Route 66

Facebook.com/GalenaDays



Crawford County Fair

The county fair has been held near Girard since 1873, and has been at its current location since 1936. At the 1927 fair, soon after his historic flight over the Atlantic Ocean, Charles Lindbergh flew over Downtown Girard.

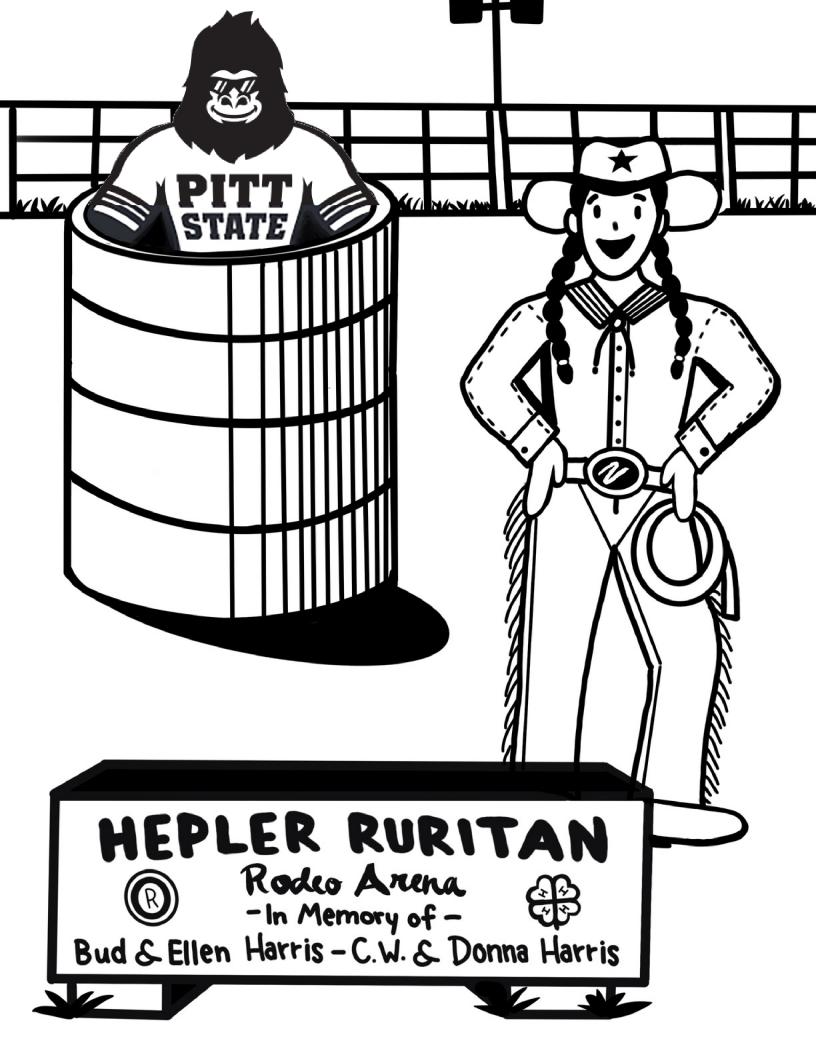
Today, the weeklong annual county fair ends the first Saturday of August. See different farm animals like chickens, pigs, and cows. Taste farm favorites like homemade ice cream and pie. There are also artworks and photographs created by kids on display. Plus, each evening there is a different special event: rodeos, a youth rodeo, a tractor pull, and a demolition derby.

During the fall, Girard hosts a **Fall Festival** on the historic town square. There is food, fun, and entertainment for the whole family.

Crawford County Fair

Crawford County Fairgrounds 249 East KS-47, Girard CrawfordCountyFair.org

Artwork by George Hatcher



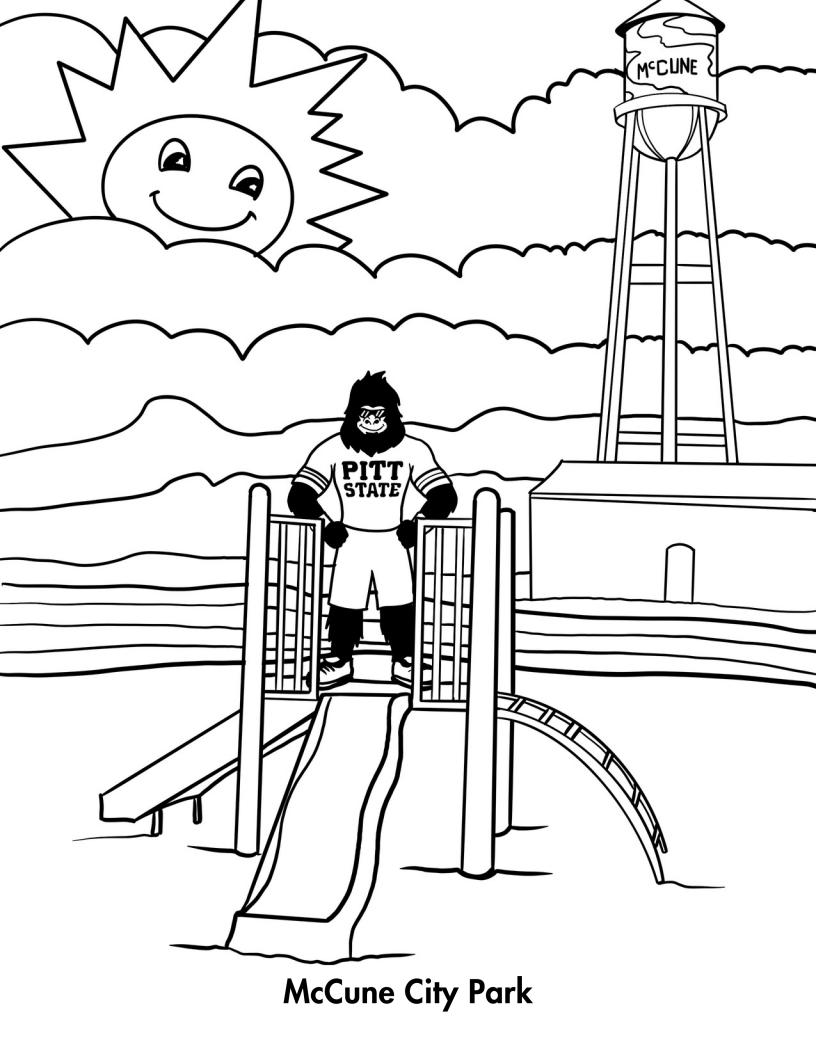
Hepler Ruritans Annual Rodeo & Independence celebration with fireworks

For more than 75 years, July 3-4 the town of Hepler has held a rodeo. The event ends with a fireworks display following the rodeo on Independence Day. A popular activity with kids is the annual **Hillbilly Games**.

Hepler Ruritans Annual Rodeo & Fireworks

Hepler Ruritan Rodeo Arena 200 West Farlington Street, Hepler

Artwork by Devynn Pitts



McCune City Park

McCune is one of the towns in the region not on the Weir-Pittsburg Coalfield. Since the coal industry did not exist there, families there have always relied on agriculture: both farm and ranch.

The playground in McCune is in the shadow of large grain bins used by local farmers and a water tower built in 1914 that looks like a tin can.

The playground is on Main Street, where the community holds its annual **Fall Festival** each September, which includes a Grand Parade and old fashioned kids games, like turtle races.

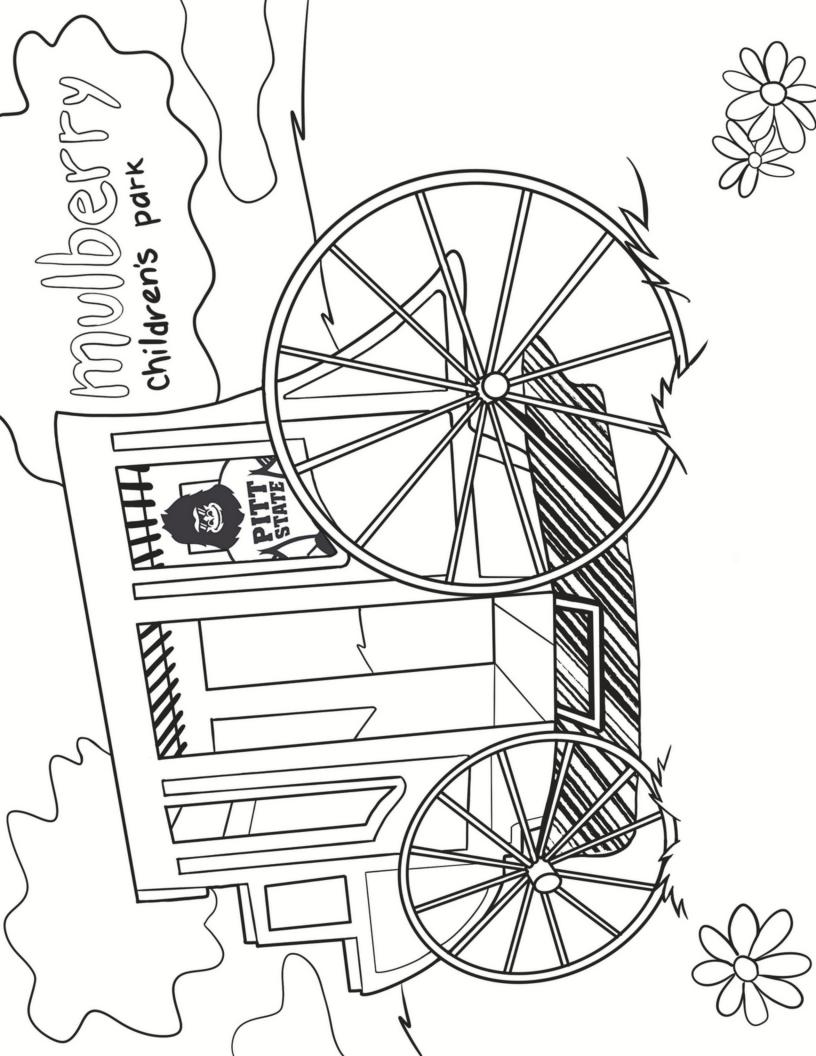
McCune City Park

7th and Main, McCune, KS

McCune Fall Festival

Facebook.com/McCuneLions

Artwork by Abby McCoy



Freddy Gobl Jr, Memorial Children's Park

This playground in Downtown Mulberry is along the 19th Century Frontier Military Road. Play on modern playground equipment as well as vintage toys from the 1950s and 60s, including a Mickey Mouse inspired teeter totter.

This park is along the main street through Mulberry, which used to be the Jefferson Highway connecting Winnipeg in Canada to New Orleans. Before that, it was a military road connecting forts along the Western Frontier.

Each May, the community hosts its **Orange and Black Night** street fair with homecoming.

Freddy Gobl Jr, Memorial Children's Park 407 North Military Avenue, Mulberry, KS

Artwork by Katelyn Phelps



23rd St Mountain Bike Park, Pittsburg

23rd Street Mountain Bike Park & Wilderness Park

Surface mining for coal throughout Southeast Kansas was a simple process. A shovel picked up dirt and rock, moved it away from the coal, and dumped it out on piles that got bigger and bigger. This left behind countless "pits" surrounded by "dumps" that eventually became man-made lakes with man-made hills around them.

In time they became ideal for recreational areas such as the 23rd Street Mountain Bike Park and Wilderness Park.

23rd Street Mountain Bike Park

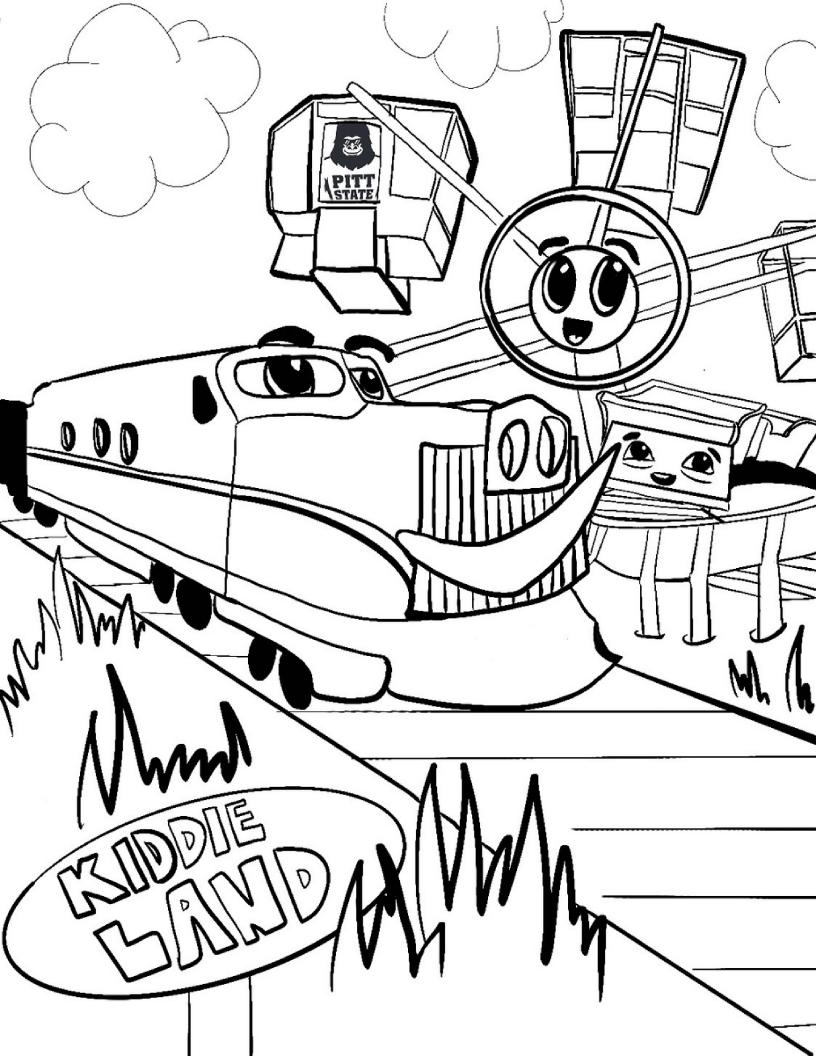
600 Block East 23rd Street, Pittsburg Nearly two miles of single track trails (No hiking please)

Wilderness Park

907 West McKay, Frontenac More than four miles of hiking trails

Artwork by Collin Chaney

Change



Kiddieland Amusement Park

The first ride at this small park for kids when it opened in 1953 was a train, which continues to be a favorite of kids and adults alike. An old-fashioned carousel is also now at the park. Kiddieland is located in **Lincoln Park**, which was originally owned by Civil War veterans and used for reunions and other gatherings.

Lincoln Park is the location of the annual **Little Balkans Days Festival**, held the week leading up to Labor Day. The **Little Balkans Folk Life Music Festival** is held that Saturday. Taste foods from food trucks, hear live music, and take part in several activities like a fishing contest.

Downtown Pittsburg is the home of the **Spring & Fall ArtWalks**, which shows off local art and music. Do chalk drawing on the street, make crafts, or just walk around to see what local artists have created while listening to live music and eating your favorite treats.

Kiddieland Amusement Park & Lincoln Park

813 Memorial Drive, Pittsburg, KS

5 Memorial Drive, Filisburg, R5

Little Balkans Days Festival

www.LittleBalkansFestival.com Facebook.com/LittleBalkansDays

Pittsburg Spring & Fall ArtWalks

www.PittsburgArtsCouncil.com Facebook.com/PittsburgArtWalk



Rotary Park, Pittsburg

Paul B. Leffler Rotary Club Park

This playground and park sit on the original site of Forest Park School (1891-1951). Known as Forest Park for decades, it was renamed to honor local Rotarian, Dr. Paul B. Leffler.

Paul B. Leffler Rotary Club Park

800 W 4th St, Pittsburg, KS

Artwork by James Oliver

4-5	PSU Champions Plaza	1705 S Joplin St, Pittsburg (east of stadium)	0
6-7	Riverside Park	N Oregon St, Oswego	Т
8-9	Cato Stone Schoolhouse & Ghost Town	1153 N 200th St, Arcadia	E
10-11	Fort Scott National Historic Site	199 Old Fort Blvd, Fort Scott	В
12-13	Tolen Creek Park	1400 Creek Park, Parsons	Р
14-15	Big Brutus	6509 NW 60th St, West Mineral	R
16-17	Heart of the Heartlands: Carona Train Depot	6769 NW 20th St, Scammon	S
18-19	Fried Chicken Paradise	Frontenac, Girard, Mulberry & Pittsburg	
20-21	TransAmerica Trail / USBR-76	Through Walnut, Girard & Pittsburg	
22-23	Arma City Park	251 N 5th St, Arma	Н
24-25	Erie Dinosaur Park	E 4th St, Erie	F
26-27	Farlington's Crawford State Park	1 W Lake Rd, Farlington	С
28-29	Fort Scott's Gunn Park	1010 Park Ave, Fort Scott	А
30-31	Frontenac's Rex the Sinclair DINO	325 E McKay St, Frontenac	J
32-33	Frontenac Rotary Park	500 E McKay St, Frontenac	K
34-35	Galena's Historic Route 66 & Tow Tater	119 N Main St, Galena	U
36-37	Girard's Crawford County Fairground	249 E KS-47, Girard	I
38-39	Hepler Ruritan Rodeo	200 W Farlington St, Hepler	D
40-41	McCune City Park	7th & Main, McCune	Q
42-43	Mulberry's Freddy Gobl Memorial Children's Park	407 N Military Ave, Mulberry	G
44-45	Pittsburg's 23rd St Mountain Bike Park	600 block E 23rd St, Pittsburg	L
46-47	Pittsburg's Kiddieland & Lincoln Park	813 Memorial Dr, Pittsburg	М
48-49	Pittsburg's Paul Leffler Rotary Park	800 W 4th St, Pittsburg	Ν

