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SOAP BOX DERBY TRACK - Ogallala is the site of a soap box derby track, one of just more than two dozen in the United States. The track, which is lighted for night racing, hosts several races each year, one of which is a qualifier for the All-American Soap Box Derby national championships, held annually at Akron, Ohio. Local and out-of-state racers compete each year in stock, super stock and master divisions. The first race event for 2021 is scheduled for April 24. For more information, see the Calendar of Events, which is located on page 6.
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH
Eagle viewing at Lake Ogallala. December through March. Contact Nate Nielsen at 308-284-2332 for more information.

JANUARY
Jan. 16-17: Gun show at the Keith County Fairgrounds. Skip Fricke at 402-276-1391.

FEBRUARY
Feb. 20-21: Brule Gun Show in the Brule Activity Center. Contact 308-233-2501 or 308-464-0246.
Feb. 27-28: Oregon Trail Home Show at the Keith County Fairgrounds. Adam Peters at 308-289-0151.

MARCH
Crane migration near Lewellen. Contact the Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce at 308-284-4066.

APRIL
April 24: Season-opening races at Wild West Soap Box Derby. Dave Barrett at 308-289-1464.

MAY
May 9-23: Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection, 14 miles southeast of Ogallala, 308-284-2524.
May 22-23: Shut Up & Fish Tournament. Chad Vogl at 308-355-2321.
May 27-July 8: Chamber’s Thursday Sounds on the Square at Rendezvous Square at Ogallala. Music starts at 6 p.m. each Thursday through July 8. Contact the chamber at 308-284-4066.

JUNE
June 5-6: Nebraska Walleye Association tournament. Dave Nadgwick at 402-657-8189.
June 5-6: 17th annual Ogallala Drovers Invitational Golf Tournament. Contact the chamber at 308-284-4066 or sign up online at visitogallala.com.
June 12: 17th annual Terry McCormick Memorial Walleye Tournament, Rose McCormick at 308-778-7216.

JULY
July 3: Demolition derby at the Keith County Fairgrounds. Troy Malone 308-289-4991.
July 19: Haythorn’s Ranch Rodeo. Contact 308-355-4000.
July 31: 32nd annual Kites and Castles sand castle building contest and kite flying event. Chamber at 308-284-4066.
July 31 through Aug. 1: Ogallala Round-Up Rodeo. Steve Kraus at 308-289-0285.

AUGUST
Aug. 4-8: Keith County Fair. Dave Baltzell at 308-289-2605.

SEPTEMBER
Sept. 11-12: Brule Gun Show in the Brule Activity Center. Contact 308-233-2501 or 308-464-0246.
Sept. 16-18: 37th annual Indian Summer Rendezvous, Keith County festival at Ogallala. Chamber at 308-284-4066.

NOVEMBER
Nov. 20: Ogallala’s annual Arts and Craft Show. Chamber at 308-284-4066.

DECEMBER
Dec. 2: Christmas Parade of Lights and other Christmas activities. Chamber at 308-284-4066.

ADDITIONS
To add your event to the 2022 Calendar of Events, contact the Keith County Chamber of Commerce at 308-284-4066.
THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Ash Hollow State Historical Park
Grounds open year-around from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Nebraska Game & Parks Park Entry Permit required. Museum open Friday through Sunday from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for children under 12.

Boot Hill
Authentic cowboy cemetery from Ogallala’s pioneer days. Located at West 10th & Parkhill Drive (four blocks west of Spruce at West 10th).

Cornhusker Lanes Bowling Alley
East Highway 30 in Ogallala, 16 lanes, Brunswick equipment, open bowling.

Eagle Viewing Center
At Lake Ogallala below Kingsley Dam.

Front Street
Free cowboy museum. Crystal Palace Revue Dance Hall Show (family show - reservations required). Phone 308-284-6000.

Figure Four Traditions
Ranch tours (20 minimum), wagon rides and gift store at the historic Haythorn Ranch 17 miles north of Ogallala.

Golf
Bayside Golf, south side Lake McConaughy, Gate 18, 18-hole course. Men's yardage 6,500. Restaurant and lounge, pro shop, cart rental, driving range, chopping green, patio homes and cabin rentals. Phone: 308-287-4653.
West Wind Golf Club, 18-hole golf course, east on Prospector Road, east of Travel Centers of America, Men's yardage 6,320. Lounge, pro shop, cart rental, driving range, putting green. 308-284-4358.

Goodall Rec Center, Ogallala
Indoor pool open mid September through mid May. Features a hot tub, infrared sauna, indoor pool, weight training and exercise equipment, and indoor walking track. All-weather outdoor basketball court. Splash pad. Located at 505 W. G St. Keyless entry available for weight and exercise equipment room only.

Kathleen Lute Public Library, Ogallala
Located at 610 W. A St. Fully accredited library with computer and Internet access. New facility, opened in 2020.

Lake Mac Water Interpretive/Visitor Center
Located south of Kingsley Dam. Features educational look at Platte River water use.

Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection
One of the largest lilac collections in the world. Open second and third weeks in May. Located 14 southeast of Ogallala. Phone 308-284-2524.

Little Church at Keystone
Free admission. For a tour, phone 308-726-2281 or 308-726-2006.

Mansion on the Hill
1887 residence, West 10th & Spruce. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for children (ages 5-12).

Ole’s Big Game Lounge
At Paxton, 200 mounted big game trophies. Nebraska’s most famous watering hole.

Outdoor Pool, Ogallala
Open June 1 through Aug. 25. Municipal pool with diving boards and water slide. Special children’s wading pool. Located at 307 W. Seventh St.

Parks and Diamonds
Western Diamonds Sports Complex is a lighted complex consisting of four softball and baseball fields and two AYSO regulation soccer fields.

Tri-Trails Historic Park includes markers from historic cattle trails, including the Great Western, Chisholm and Oregon, and also marks the Pony Express Trail.

Petrified Wood & Art Gallery
Located at 418 E. First St. A museum of natural history specializing in ancient woods and fossils collected by Howard and Harvey Kenfield. Gift shop.

Prairie Theatre
202 North Spruce St., (308) 284-2728. Vintage 1930s-style theater showing movies on two screens.

Wild West Soap Box Derby
One of only 24 tracks in the nation, the Wild West Soap Box Derby track at Ogallala hosts a national championship qualifier and local rally races in the spring and summer. Located near Western Diamonds Sports Complex, the lighted track hosts between three and four weekend racing dates each year.

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Nebraska’s ‘Cowboy Capital’

Named for the Oglala band of Dakota Sioux and located on the Union Pacific Railroad, Ogallala was a lusty cowtown of the Old West.

Chief gateway to the northern plains – that was Ogallala from 1875 to 1888.

During this decade Texas drovers delivered their trail herds of longhorn cattle by the thousands.

Cattlemen met in Ogallala’s hotel and saloons with Texas cattle kings and haggled about prices to be paid for the longhorns, which were used to stock the northern plains in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, the Dakotas and Montana.

Cattle also were shipped east on the Union Pacific. Indian agencies and mining camps also provided markets for Ogallala beef.

During summer months, business boomed. Saloonkeeper, storekeeper and hotelkeeper all shared in the prosperity.

At least 10 or 12 herds, each of 2,500 head, could usually be located south of the town, a bawling mass carpeting the plains, while waiting for their new owners. The presence of a hundred or more trail hands taxed the facilities of Ogallala.

Many cowboys spent their nights napping on the “soft side” of a walnut board. The saloons carried such colorful names as “Cowboys Rest” and “Crystal Palace.” The Ogallala House became the center of social activities for the townspeople and the big cattlemen.

Activity at Ogallala continued at a fever pitch until the end of August. By then, the drives for the season were ending and the drovers who had brought the herds up the trail were gradually drifting to their native Texas.

Business revived briefly during the fall months in October, when the cattlemen of the area began to bring their steers in off the grass for shipment east.

By November, however, Ogallala settled back in quiet and peaceful repose.

The floaters, gambling, tradespeople and dancehall hostesses, who made up a large portion of Ogallala’s mobile population, drifted off to Omaha or Cheyenne to spend the winter. Only the hotel, one supply store and a single saloon remained open for the winter.

From 1879 to 1884, 100,000 to 125,000 cattle each year were trailed to Ogallala. By 1884, the trail driving days were virtually ended and the Old West and Ogallala turned to other ways of life. But cattle remain the area’s No. 1 industry.

(The word Oglala means to “scatter one’s own.”)
The Ogallala Fireworks Show, annually put on by the Keith County Chamber of Commerce, is the best July 4 fireworks show in western Nebraska. Choreographed to music, the show includes the electronic firing of more than 1,700 shells and costs about $26,000. Annually, the fireworks display is set off at 9:30 p.m. July 4 near Western Diamonds Sports Complex. Those planning to view the display are asked to arrive one hour before the show.
Splash pad, playground nearing reality

Fundraising on a new splash pad-playground is closing in on its goal and project officials are hopeful that the new amenity, which will be located near the Goodall Recreation Center, will be open sometime this year.

Funded through private donations and grants, the estimated project cost is around $405,000.

Former Nebraska quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch, through his company, Crouch Recreation, will construct, after personally designing, both the playground and splash pad.

The new playground, which will replace the current one at Collister Park, will feature more child-friendly equipment sitting on a flat, stable poured-rubber surface, and will be accessible by way of a level, asphalt parking lot and cement sidewalks, which the city will install.

Collister Park is located behind the Goodall Recreation Center and was chosen as an ideal spot to build the new playground and splash pad because there will not be much traffic near the proposed activity area.

The playground and splash pad will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The playground will feature a swing that will accommodate both children and adults with disabilities.

Other features of the playground include a rock-climbing wall, vertical net, a giant musical xylophone and drums that will accommodate individuals in wheelchairs. There will also be a spinner, or 10-spin, similar to the old-fashioned metal spinners, but made out of a different, safer material and with features that will keep occupants from falling off and being injured.

The splash pad will also be ADA compliant, consisting of a flat cement surface that will easily accommodate individuals in wheelchairs and using walkers.

It will feature sensors, both manual and automatic, which will begin the water flowing. The water features will be on timers, and water will not flow while not in use.
New library offers lifelong learning space

Ogallala’s new Kathleen Lute Public Library opened late last year.

The new library, located at 610 W. A St., just down the street from the old library, is a project that has been decades in the making.

By early 2019, after years of planning and preparation, backers had raised more than $2 million for the project, thanks to large donations from charitable organizations and local governments, as well as contributions from the community, and ground was broken March 25, 2019.

The one-level, 12,992-square-foot facility is more than twice the size of the old Goodall Library and entirely handicapped accessible, with plenty of off-street parking on its own lot.

The main floor is divided into separate sections for adult and young adult material, and there is a dedicated children’s area and computer lab.

A dedicated adult computer lab has 10 stations available for public use, and free WiFi is also available throughout the grounds for patrons to access the Internet on their personal devices.

A genealogy area provides resources to research the rich history of area families and founders.

More than just a library, the new space features a large, dividable conference room that accommodates 100 guests.

The conference room is available for rent.

There’s a dedicated reading and leisure area and “maker spaces” throughout the facility to inspire creativity in guests of all ages.

The public is invited to the library and visitors to the area are welcome to see the new space that is dedicated to lifelong learning.
Boot Hill marks early western history

Even Ogallala folks’ tolerance had a limit, so after three days of drinking and shooting up the town, they sent Sheriff “Buffalo Joe” Hughes in pursuit of rioting Texas cowhands.

His shotgun felled one going out the barroom door. A nother died three days later of a gutfull of shot. A third joined his compadres on Boot Hill later in the summer from wounds suffered that night.

Boot Hill was Ogallala’s only official burying site during the “end of the trail” decade from 1874 through 1884. A hundred or more people were rolled in canvas and dropped into shallow graves during that time, a remarkable death rate for a settlement with only about 130 permanent residents at that time.

In May 1867, the first bodies were buried on the hill. They were three Union Pacific tracklayers killed in an Indian raid a mile east of what is now Spruce Street.

Robert Webster, a drover, was shot to death August 1875, while bathing in the North Platte River. Naked and unarmed, he was gunned down by a fellow cowhand traveling under the name of Woolsey, the final chapter in what began as a practical joke on their Negro camp cook.

A sage said, “The West was hell on women and horses.” Boot Hill records agree – though no horse burials were recorded there.

Sarah Miller, the young wife of a local rancher, was buried with her newborn baby. When her body was exhumed 30 years later for reburial in the “new” cemetery, west of town, it had petrified, one of the gravediggers reported.

However, that gravedigger also called her “Lillie,” the name of Bernard Miller’s second wife who left town with her husband in good health when the open range era began to shut down.

Other women and children, too, were buried “on the hill,” including Cynthia McCey died of consumption, 4-year-old Ida Alice Aufdengarten, who died of snakebite; Mary McMurdo Bleasdale, who died in childbirth; Sheriff Joe Hughes’ only girl child, who was crushed by a falling timber; and teenager Gertrude Fisher, who died in the typhoid epidemic of 1884.

The county commissioners paid $5 to bury one of Dull Knife’s braves, who had died traveling north during the Cheyenne Outbreak of 1878-79.

Joseph Hayden won $100,000 gambling with Texas cattle barons one night and tried to escape east on the 2 a.m. train with a suitcase of gold coins. William Bland and a gang of cowboys took him off the train at Alkali (now Paxton) and somehow, Hayden was shot three times trying to escape.

Pedro, “other name unknown,” was shot near Roscoe by a Cheyenne County posse that had trailed him driving a herd of stolen horses.

Bill Campbell, who had achieved almost mythical fame for his exploits on the trail, got drunk in Ogallala one day and accused one of the Moy brothers of being a “Yankee bean eater.”

The Texan, once-removed from Georgia, took exception to the slur and later killed Campbell in a duel across the dance floor in the Cowboys Rest Saloon.

A 14-year-old cowboy on his first trip up the trail woke up one morning behind the Crystal Palace Saloon, Ogallala’s other establishment, lying between “two fellows with their heads bashed in.”

“Rattlesnake Ed” Worley was killed in 1884 by Lank Keyes in a fight over a $9 monte bet. The following year, Lank’s brother, John, killed a man in a barroom battle.

Some of the bodies buried at Ogallala’s Boot Hill Cemetery have never been identified.
Rec Center offers everything for fitness

The Goodall Recreation Center, located at 505 E. G St., at Ogallala, offers a facility for those who train or want to stay in shape.

The community undertook two fundraising projects that have transformed the facility into one that offers almost everything for the fitness conscious.

Prior to the proposed splash pad and playground, the most recent addition to the center complex is an outdoor basketball court named in honor of former Ogallala High School Coach the late Mark Etzelmiller.

The community, in its second recent grassroots effort to improve the facility and its grounds, raised nearly $36,000 to improve the concrete court to a new all-weather surface with glass-backboard basketball goals.

The center, which has served the community since 1973, also features a recent expansion and the addition of equipment.

The center’s Expansion Committee was able to raise more than $300,000 and receive a $300,000 matching commitment from the city of Ogallala, paving the way for the center to about double its existing square footage.

In addition to the steel building, which is located on the east side of the center, the project included drainage and ventilation work, restrooms, an indoor walkin and an area for aerobics classes.

The area is a welcome addition to a facility that features an indoor pool (open mid September through mid May), infrared sauna, hot tub, weight training and exercise equipment facilities, and shower areas. The indoor pool is closed when Ogallala opens its outdoor facility at 307 W. Seventh St.

The center has nearly 50 exercise machines.

The Goodall Recreation Center is open from 5:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Friday, and noon until 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Keyless entry is available for the weight and exercise equipment room, and the walking track.

Daily rates for both adults and youth are no more than $3.

An annual single, adult membership is $140 and senior citizen rates are $103 annually. Both those include keyless entry.

The phone number is (308) 284-8735.

THE RECREATION CENTER HAS A LARGE INDOOR SWIMMING POOL.

THE RECREATION CENTER HAS A LARGE INDOOR SWIMMING POOL.
Native American works featured in gallery

Ogallala’s Petrified Wood Gallery’s newly remodeled room is being well used since its recent completion and is available to the public for any number of functions.

Located at 418 E. First St., the family-friendly gallery is a museum of natural history specializing in ancient woods and other art exhibits.

The new space offers an area for artists to give lessons and for local and traveling art showings. It is also available for private receptions and other functions.

Gallery items have been collected since 1952 and gifted to the community by twin artists-craftsmen Harvey and Howard Kenfield.

A gallery highlight is the prize-winning collection of three-dimensional petrified wood pictures of ghost towns, houses and barns reminiscent of the Great Depression era.

The scenes are created by taking small pieces of thin, shale-like petrified wood and hand-gluing them to canvas backgrounds.

Also popular with gallery visitors are pictures of birds made with naturally colored pieces of petrified wood.

There are also pieces of petrified wood transformed into pine cones, flowers, insects, butterflies, toadstools and even mice and a piece of cheese.

Visitors also will find a unique collection of lapidary art, including beautifully polished rounds of wood, limbs, agates, spheres and carvings artistically displayed.

There also are fossil cones and fossilized leaf imprints, as well as Native American artifacts, which were found within a 25-mile radius of Ogallala, mostly in the Lake McConaughy area.

It is an amazing collection of natural history, rivaling any in much larger cities.

The collection has won prizes at gem and mineral shows throughout the nation. During one event at St. Louis, Mo., the exhibit won both top awards, the first time in the history of the show that both awards went to the same exhibit.

Gallery visitors also will find a most unique gift shop.

The gallery allows Ogallala and its residents to treat their visitors to an education in natural history and the beauty it offers.

NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS - The gallery features many Native American artifacts, including a massive collection of arrowheads (background), pewters and other statues.
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At full storage, McConaughy is 20 miles long, 4 miles wide and 142 feet deep at the dam.

With its cool, clear-blue waters, fishing is the lake’s primary drawing card but, because of its white sandy beaches, Lake Mac also is noted for its sailing, camping, windsurfing, scuba diving, water skiing and picnicking.

But it also has year-round activities such as hunting, ice-boating, ice skating and backpacking.

Lake Ogallala, just below Kingsley Dam, is Nebraska’s premiere eagle-viewing facility.

The Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District operates a heated eagle-viewing observation facility at Lake Ogallala.

The facility is open from early January to about mid-March, depending on weather conditions.

Special group tours are offered by calling (308) 284-2332.

Kingsley Dam, which impounds the North Platte River for irrigation and power generation, was completed in 1941.

The dam is 3-1/2 miles long and 162 feet high. It is 1,100 feet thick at the base.

Construction started on Kingsley Dam in 1936 and was built at a cost of $43.5 million.

The 50-megawatt Kingsley Dam Hydroelectric Plant, the state’s largest, was completed in 1984 at a cost of $49 million.

The hydroelectric plant is owned by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and was financed by the Nebraska Public Power District, which purchases the power generated by the plant.

Nearby attractions include Ash Hollow State Historical Park near Lewellen, and Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge north of Oshkosh.

Clear Creek Waterfowl Management Area at the west end of McConaughy attracts Canada geese, which can be hunted on the controlled shooting area and much of the lake.
### Area Lodging Facilities

#### Lodging - Lake McConaughy
- The Dunes .................................................. 303-521-6018
- The Beach House ........................................... 308-726-2892
- Admiral’s Cove ............................................. 308-355-2102
- Bayside Golf and Lodging ............................... 308-287-4653
- Eagle Canyon Hideaway .................................. 308-287-2673
- Kingsley Lodge .............................................. 308-284-2775
- Marina Landing ............................................. 308-355-3535
- Mesa View Lodge .......................................... 308-355-5000
- North Shore Lodge ........................................ 308-355-2222
- Otter Creek Lodge ......................................... 308-355-2372
- Vogt’s Lodge & Lure ....................................... 308-355-2321

#### Lodging - Ogallala
- Sandy Spurs House ........................................ 303-810-0069

#### Campgrounds
- Arthur Bay RV Park & Storage ........................... 720-581-1018
- Admiral’s Cove ............................................. 308-355-2102
- Cedar Vue .................................................... 308-471-1414
- Country View Campground .............................. 308-284-2415
- Lake Ogallala ............................................... 402-471-1414
- North Shore Lodge ......................................... 308-355-2222
- The Lodge - RV Park, Paxton ............................ 308-239-4510
- Lone Eagle ................................................... 402-471-1414
- McGeer’s Campground (Big Springs) ............... 308-289-4137
- Mesa View Campground .................................. 308-355-5000
- Ogallala-Lake McConaughy KOA ..................... 308-284-1300

### Motels - Big Springs
- Motel 6 ....................................................... 308-889-3671

#### Motels - Lewellen
- Gander Inn Motel ......................................... 308-778-5616
- Lewellen Lodge ........................................... 308-672-0690
- Nancy B’s Backyard Bunkhouse ....................... 308-778-5408

#### Motels - Downtown Ogallala
- Elms Motel .................................................. 308-284-3404
- Lazy K .......................................................... 308-284-4056
- Oregon Trail ............................................... 308-284-3705
- Paradise ...................................................... 308-284-9940

#### I-80 Motels - Ogallala
- AmericInn by Wyndham ................................ 308-284-2266
- Best Western Plus ......................................... 308-289-7011
- Days Inn ...................................................... 308-284-6365
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites ....................... 308-284-6080
- Quality Inn .................................................. 308-284-3623
- Stagecoach Inn ............................................ 308-284-3566
- Super 8 Motel ............................................... 308-284-2076

#### I-80 Motels - Paxton
- The Lodge Days Inn ...................................... 308-239-4510

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**A message from the Keith County Visitors Committee**

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VISITOR CENTER – Opened in 2001, the $2 million, 9,000-square-foot Lake McConaughy Visitor/Water Interpretive Center serves the area, its citizens and visitors. In addition to serving as lake headquarters for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the center includes aquariums, a 50-seat theater and interpretive displays, explaining the role of water in Nebraska’s past, present and future. The center, located south of Kingsley Dam, is open year-round, and often is the first place newcomers visit as they approach Lake McConaughy, obtaining the necessary permits and information needed to enjoy one of the state’s finest outdoor, recreational areas.

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Interpretive, Visitor Center educate public

Inside the Lake McConaughy Visitor Center is a series of displays and educational videos that describes and details the role water plays in our everyday lives.

The Water Interpretive Center houses interactive displays that explain the benefits of the Platte River and the High Plains Aquifer.

The Interpretive Center is open to all, free of charge.

The Visitor Center, located south of Kingsley Dam on Highway 61, includes the offices of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Water Interpretive Center, and the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District office.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission conducts its daily Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area business from the center, and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District also has its main public office in the facility.

The facility also features two 1,500-gallon aquariums, a 50-seat theater, a conference room and gift shop.

During the tourist season, the facility offers extended hours to accommodate the visitors and the long days of summer.

In recent years, the Game and Parks Commission also has added a naturalist to its staff. The naturalist organizes educational programs for the public, many of which are free of charge.

Plans for the center began in 1996, when the Friends of the Big Mac Committee formed with the goal to use public and private funds to expand the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission office, and add a water interpretive center.

The committee raised more than $150,000 in donations from individuals, organizations and foundations, which was matched by a grant from the Department of Economic Development, Travel and Tourism Division.

In 2006, the Nebraska Water Center Foundation, a non-profit organization, formed to support the center’s efforts through fund-raising for educational programs, maintenance and the updating of exhibits.

An education committee was organized, and includes people from across the state. The educators give their input into the programs the center can offer.
Lake McConaughy Recreation Area

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Dial 911 for all emergencies
Keith County Sheriff, Ogallala Police Department and Nebraska State Patrol 308-284-2011
Hospital 308-284-4011

VISITORS, PLEASE NOTE!
No three- or four-wheeled ATVs, mini-bikes, dirt bikes or golf carts are allowed in the recreation area.
A current Nebraska park entry permit is required on all vehicles entering the recreation area.
Camping fees are charged at all areas.
NO ALCOHOL OR FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED AT THE LAKE McCONAUGHY STATE RECREATION AREA
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Dial 911 for all emergencies
Keith County Sheriff,
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ARE ALLOWED AT THE
LAKE McCONAUGHY
STATE RECREATION AREA
## City of Ogallala Map

### Restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arby's</td>
<td>65 East River Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>A&amp;W Restaurant</td>
<td>1103 W. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy Queen</td>
<td>2000 Texas Trail Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driftwood Event Center</td>
<td>114 N. Spruce St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Street Steakhouse</td>
<td>519 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Village</td>
<td>E. 405 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homemade Heaven</td>
<td>12 North Spruce St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taco John's</td>
<td>620 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Margarita's</td>
<td>401 Stagecoach Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>McDonald's</td>
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<td>Mi Ranchito</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Range Grill</td>
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<td>Peking Chinese Restaurant</td>
<td>112 East A St.</td>
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<td>Pizza Hut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ranch House Cafe</td>
<td>1507 W. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runza</td>
<td>205 Stagecoach Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scooters Coffee</td>
<td>302 Oregon Trail Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slow Lane Coffee</td>
<td>112 North Spruce St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subway</td>
<td>100 Prospect Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taco John's</td>
<td>302 Oregon Trail Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentiño's</td>
<td>55 East River Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy's</td>
<td>Highway 26 &amp; I-80</td>
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### Campgrounds

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<th>Campground</th>
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<td>Country View Campground</td>
<td>120 Rd East 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ogallala-Lake Mac KOA</td>
<td>221 Road East 85</td>
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<th>Attraction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boothill Cemetery</td>
<td>W. 10th &amp; Parkhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
<td>1100 W. Firth St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock Auction Market</td>
<td>W. Hwy. 30</td>
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<td>Front Street Museum</td>
<td>519 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petrofied Gallery</td>
<td>418 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mansion on the Hill</td>
<td>W. 10th &amp; Spruce St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodall Rec. Center</td>
<td>505 E. G St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Pool</td>
<td>307 W. Seventh St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors Center</td>
<td>119 E. Second St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowling Alley</td>
<td>900 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Street</td>
<td>519 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>359 Co. Rd. East 85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Theatre</td>
<td>208 N. Spruce St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Diamonds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Complex</td>
<td>1600 N. Spruce</td>
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### Motels

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<td>AmericInn by Wyndham</td>
<td>501 Stagecoach Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Western Plus</td>
<td>110 Pony Express Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Days Inn</td>
<td>600 Stagecoach Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elms Motel</td>
<td>717 W. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites</td>
<td>206 Pony Express Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lazy K Motel</td>
<td>1501 E. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Trail Motel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality Inn</td>
<td>201 Chuckwagon R.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Spurs House</td>
<td>915 W. E St.</td>
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<td>South Platte Cabins and Kennels</td>
<td>501 Stagecoach Dr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stagecoach Inn</td>
<td>201 Stagecoach Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super 8 Motel</td>
<td>South I-80 &amp; Highway 61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### City of Ogallala Map

Map courtesy of Riley Enterprises Ltd.
Little Lake is an ‘every-season’ fishery

Lake Ogallala is a unique Nebraska lake, providing fishing opportunities during every season of the year, according to longtime Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Fisheries Biologist Darrol Eichner.

Eichner said Lake Ogallala and its tributaries, the North Platte River and Nebraska Public Power District’s Supply Canal, are unique in several ways, including providing anglers with year-round opportunities.

Eichner said, even during the harshest winter months, Lake Ogallala and the tributaries provide anglers with opportunity to catch rainbow trout and other game fish.

Six years ago, Game and Parks Commission officials renovated Lake Ogallala, removing the rough fish and trying to improve the dissolved oxygen levels to help maintain the trout population. Eichner believes another renovation may be in order, and he is hoping research can be undertaken at the same time to help improve the oxygen levels in the “Little Lake.”

Regularly, rainbow trout, some longer than 20 inches, are caught from Lake Ogallala and its tributaries.

The Game and Parks Commission will continue to stock rainbow trout as it has in past years.

This year, between 50,000 and 60,000 9-1/2 inch rainbow trout will be stocked. A total of 30,000 will be stocked in the early spring, with another 25,000 to 30,000 stocked in the final four months of the year.

The anticipated trout stockings mark the same pattern the commission has been using for a number of years.

The commission also stocks rainbow trout in Humphreys Pond at Ogallala. The winter stockings are designed to allow for winter fishing.
HYDRO – Completed in 1984 at a cost of $49 million, the Kingsley Hydroelectric Plant is Nebraska’s largest hydroplant. Owned and operated by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the plant has produced an annual average of 76.4 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, all of which is sold at wholesale to the Nebraska Public Power District. In addition to generating electricity, water released from Kingsley Dam is used to irrigate 222,000 acres in the Platte River Valley. The system is served by canals and provides groundwater recharge to another 310,300 acres irrigated by wells.

This publication was paid, in part, by the Keith County Visitors Committee.

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The Eagle Viewing Center is open from January to March below the Kingsley Hydroplant at Lake Ogallala. Bald eagles congregate near Lake Ogallala during the winter months to feed on fish. The Lake McConaughy area provides habitat for hundreds of species of birds.

Sharing the Shoreline

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (owner and operator of Kingsley Dam, Lake McConaughy and Kingsley Hydroplant) hopes you enjoy your visit to Lake McConaughy, but remember, you’re sharing the shoreline with others. Please be courteous to others who are enjoying the lake’s many opportunities for recreation.

You may also notice other visitors: endangered least terns and threatened piping plovers that often build their nests on the beaches. If you encounter these birds or their nests (shallow scrapes in the sand), or if you see signs indicating their presence, please avoid the area. Help ensure these birds’ future by “Sharing the Shoreline.”
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission officials remind visitors to observe existing laws so everyone remains safe on the water at Lake McConaughy.

All boaters must display an aquatic invasive species decal. Those decals are available in the Lake Mac Visitor Center or at www.outdoornebraska.org.

Boaters should take care to avoid transporting aquatic nuisance species, such as zebra mussels, by making sure to clean, drain and dry their boats before launching at Lake McConaughy or any other waterway.

Those boating on Nebraska’s largest reservoir should always keep an eye on the weather and head for shore early when storms approach.

Paddlesports enthusiasts should remember that they are required to carry and use life jackets. Boating safety gear and preparation is a must. Life jackets are required on every type of vessel and people of certain ages are required to wear life jackets.

Water enthusiasts must ensure their boats have all other necessary safety gear before hitting the water.

Nebraska law requires any person born after Dec. 31, 1985, to complete a boater safety course and have proof of completion with them in order to operate any motorboat, including personal watercraft.

Nebraska’s boater safety course is recognized in all other states and those from out of state will meet the state’s requirement provided their course is NASBLA-approved.

Various classroom courses and test-out option courses are offered throughout the state.

For a complete listing, visit www.boat safenebraska.org or contact the Lake McConaughy Visitor Center at (308) 284-8800. Those living out of state are asked to contact their state’s boating authority.

Alcohol consumption is illegal at Lake McConaughy and should be avoided while boating or participating in any water recreation.
If Nebraska is “Grand Central Station” for birds, then Keith and Garden counties are the turnstile.

The passage of cranes is Nebraska’s best-known bird phenomenon, but the central Platte Valley is not the state’s birding hot spot.

That honor goes to the area around Lake McConaughy in Keith and Garden counties, according to Paul Johnsgard, professor emeritus of life sciences at the University of Nebraska.

His colleagues have identified 365 species of birds in Keith and Garden counties and 112 breeding species — what Johnsgard called a “cornucopia of birds.”

“It’s the best place in the state and the third-best in the country to go birding,” Johnsgard said. “It has the third largest local list for any locality in the entire United States.

“The area around Cedar Point Biological Station (below Kingsley Dam)...is one of the richest ornithological attractions in the Great Plains, with a species list that is unmatched by any area north of Texas,” Johnsgard said.

Lake Ogallala also ranks No. 1 in the state for viewing of bald eagles.

When Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala freeze over, eagles gather to feed below the Kingsley Hydroplant.

An indoor, heated eagle-viewing facility, built by the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District on the shore of Lake Ogallala, is open from early January until March.

Group visits to the center can be arranged by calling (308) 284-2332.

The west end of Lake McConaughy also is a favorite stopover for sandhill cranes.

Two threatened species, the least tern and piping plover, can be watched from just a few feet away at special areas at the Martin Bay parking lot on the north end of Kingsley Dam.

Christmas bird counts, held annually for years, regularly place the number of bird species at Lake McConaughy at 100 or more.

Just west of Lake McConaughy, Garden County and, specifically, Oshkosh has long carried the title of Nebraska Goose Capital, with some of the finest goose hunting in the nation.

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Ash Hollow Park features 30 million years of history

LEWELLEN – Nebraska’s “most intriguing and unusual” state park.
That’s how the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission describes Ash Hollow State Historical Park, located three miles southeast of Lewellen on U.S. Highway 26 – or about 30 miles northwest of Ogallala and just minutes from Lake McCon-aughy.
Settlers on their way west came through the area starting in the 1830s and called the valley “Ash Hollow” because of the ash trees growing there.
Open daily, the park is operated by the Game & Parks Commission. A state park entry permit, available at the park, is required.
A modern visitor center interprets the geological, paleontologic, prehistoric, native American Indian, military and 19th Century fur trappers, explorers and pioneers.
The Ash Hollow Indian Cave, now covered with a building for protective purposes, further interprets the geologic history of the area.
More than 30 million years of geologic history can be examined at the park. The geologic history of rocks exposed in the park spans that many years. A large number of fossils from various species, including Tertiary mammals, can be found in sediments and rocks in the area.
A visual show traces how man used Ash Hollow from prehistoric times through the emigrant days of the mid-1800s.
Ash Hollow has evidence of prehistoric animals including rhinoceros, mammoths and mastodons and also of prehistoric man dating back 8,000 to 10,000 years.
Ash Hollow also was visited by the Plains Indians, fur traders and trappers, and was the site of U.S. troop maneuvers.
It was a principal stopping point on the Oregon, California and Mormon trails with up to emigrants passing through or by Ash Hollow.
In 1835, the area was the site of a major battle between the Pawnee and the Sioux and near the site of one of the largest engagements between U.S. troops and the Sioux ever fought in Nebraska Territory, the 1855 Battle of Blue Water, a retaliatory attack more often referred to as a massacre committed by the U.S. Army.
CHEWING UP THE WAVES - Powered by a Mercury engine, this boat powers through the waves at Lake McConaughy. Each year, thousands of boaters use the cool, clear waters of Lake Mac. Boaters are reminded to stop the spread of zebra mussels by cleaning and drying their boats after each use.
Area Churches Welcome You

† APOSTOLIC FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER, Ogallala. The Rev. Kenneth Dyches.
† ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Big Springs. The Rev. Todd Lanman. Phone 889-3385.
† CHURCH OF CHRIST, 502 W. K St., Ogallala. Bobby Brueggeman. Phone 284-4489.
† FIRST CONGREGATIONAL, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 302 N. Spruce, Ogallala. The Rev. Lisa Hadler. Phone 284-3601.
† FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 421 N. Spruce, Ogallala. The Rev. Chuck Rager. Phone 284-8455.
† GRACEPOINT, 2612 W. A St., Ogallala. The Rev. Curtis Tschetter. Phone 284-4441.
† KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES, 1206 N. Spruce St., Ogallala. Phone 284-0883.
† LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH, 951 E. First St., Ogallala. Pastor John Howe. Phone 284-4233.
† MARTIN BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1.5 miles north of Lake McConaughy on Highway 61. Phone 726-1234.
† NEW HOPE WORSHIP CENTER, 319 E. O St., and NEW HOPE MINISTRY CENTER, 118 E. B St., Ogallala. The Revs. Matt Waitley and Eric Wait. Kim Piepho is church administrator. Phone 284-6550.
† PAXTON MENNONITE CHURCH, 2 miles south of Paxton. The Rev. Mark Koehn.
† PAXTON NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, Paxton, 239-4360. Pastor Bill Forbes.
† OGDALLA COMMUNITY CHURCH, Southern Baptist, meets in Arterburn Youth Center. The Rev. Doug Lee. Phone (308) 539-1170 or (308) 464-0958.
† NEW LIFE CHURCH, 700 Foxhill Road, Ogallala. Campus Pastors Wes and Kimberli Harmon.
† SANDHILLS FELLOWSHIP of Lake McConaughy, Lemoynne. Phone 355-3222.
† ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4 miles south, 6-1/2 miles east of Ogallala. The Rev. AJ Bader. Phone 284-4976.
† ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD, Brule. The Rev. Jon Dickmander. Phone 287-2349.
† ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 318 E. A St., Ogallala.
† ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 312 W. Third St., Ogallala. The Rev. John Stubenrouch. Phone 284-2688.
† SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, East 10th and G streets, Ogallala. Pastor J im Nichols. Phone 254-2155.
† TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA Church, Paxton. The Rev. JA Welsh. Phone 239-4261.
† TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 10 miles south, 1 mile west of Ogallala. The Rev. Wayne T. Pick. Phone Phone 352-4079.
† UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL, Brule. The Rev. Lisa Hadler. Phone 287-2311.
† UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Big Springs. The Rev. Bun Koo Lee. Phone 889-3153.
† UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Paxton. The Rev. Mark Baldwin. Phone 239-4649.
† ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Big Springs. The Rev. Trenton Christensen. Phone 889-3632.

Keith County Catholic Community
Fr. Bryan Ernest, Pastor

St. Luke’s Catholic Church
417 East 3rd St., Ogallala
308-284-3196
Mass Times: Weekdays at 8 a.m.
Saturday at 5 p.m., Sunday at 10 a.m.
www.kccatholics.com

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
301 East 4th St., Paxton
Mass Time:
Sunday at 8 a.m.
KEYSTONE – In 1908, in a town “too small” for two churches, the community of Keystone needed a church.

In a rare display of togetherness, townsfolk built a “combination” church to serve both Catholics and Protestants.

The church is approximately 18 feet wide and 40 feet long. At the north end was a Catholic altar; at the south end, a Protestant altar. Pews with reversible backs were installed. The stove was an old Union Pacific depot stove.

For Catholic Mass, parishioners faced the Catholic altar. Then, pew backs were flipped over and the Protestant congregation faced the Protestant altar.

The church, with seating capacity of 70 to 75 people, remained in use until 1949. The first idea for a church was conceived by 11 teenage girls led by Mrs. Bill Paxton Jr., who had organized them into a club similar to present 4-H clubs. Mrs. Paxton also helped found the Keystone Library. Mr. Paxton was a well-known rancher, after whom the town of Paxton is named. When completed, the church cost $1,200. When it was dedicated on Aug. 16, 1908, it was debt-free.

The first wedding in the church, a marriage between Miss Anna Knight and Mr. William Fenwick, was held four days later, on Aug. 20, 1908.

The Little Church at Keystone still stands as a monument to Catholic-Protestant amity and is put to use occasionally for weddings. It is operated by the Keith County Historical Society.

The Little Church at Keystone was built in 1908. The frame church was built by Catholics and Protestants, and remained in use until 1949. The church has been undergoing renovations during recent years, including a new roof, inside refurbishing and a new sidewalk leading up to the building.

William Fenwick, was held four days later, on Aug. 20, 1908. The Little Church at Keystone still stands as a monument to Catholic-Protestant amity and is put to use occasionally for weddings. It is operated by the Keith County Historical Society.

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MANSION ON THE HILL - Ogallala’s 1887 Mansion on the Hill, made from bricks kilned at Ogallala, is open during the summer as a period house museum. Hours are from 9 a.m. through noon and 1 through 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. The facility also is available for rent for special occasions from April through December. Operated by the Keith County Historical Society, the Mansion is located at Spruce and 10th streets. For more information, contact (308) 284-1115 or (308) 284-6464.

VISITORS CENTER - The city of Ogallala owns and maintains the Spruce Street Visitors Center, which is located at Third and Spruce streets. The air-conditioned center offers information on city amenities, the Lincoln Highway and weather. The center also offers a history of the facility, including an artistic rendition of how the center looked in its heyday during the 1920s. It also features a cement marker designating the station as a Lincoln Highway landmark and a welcoming bronze statue, titled “Full Service,” which was dedicated in 2008 and paid for by the Keith County Visitors Committee. Staffed by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program members, hours of operation are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The facility, which includes a repair garage that has been converted into a community room, is available free of charge to non-profit organizations. It also is for rent to those offering events with a purpose of generating a profit. Those wanting to use the facility can contact the city clerk’s office at 308-284-3607.

“Lake McConaughy: A Geographic Portrait”
A history of Lake McConaughy and Kingsley Dam from original idea, through the building years, to now.

Books are $30 ($5 shipping & handling) available in the Keith County News 308-284-4046
116 West A, Ogallala
PAXTON - Paxton, a community of 536, has its own wild kingdom – 200 plus animals to be exact.

The private collection of the late Rosser O. “Ole” Herstedt that dates back to the 1930s, which is located in Ole’s Big Game Steakhouse & Lounge, features more than 200 mounted trophies from every continent in the world.

The warm welcome that awaits you in Ole’s is a direct reflection of Herstedt, the man who founded what is often called “Nebraska’s favorite watering hole.”

Born and reared at Paxton, Ole never tired of the friendly people and easygoing lifestyle of this tiny western-Nebraska community. In fact, his desire to remain in his hometown was what led him to seize a unique business opportunity in 1933.

Ole’s opened at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 9, 1933, the night Prohibition ended. The tavern became the local gathering spot. Ole and his friends would spend hours swapping stories of their hunting exploits. In 1938, Ole bagged a deer that he was especially proud of, had the buck mounted and displayed it in the bar. And that is how it began.

Now, hundreds of pictures and memorabilia share the rustic, knotty pine walls with more than 200 trophy heads of North American and African big game. Many are still world-class records.

Always one to follow his dreams, Ole traveled to every continent and the lounge became a showcase for his adventures. The feature attraction is an 11-foot-6 polar bear that weighed more than 1,500 pounds when Ole shot it in March 1969 near the Chukchi Sea off Siberia.

It’s the wild kingdom atmosphere that includes an elephant, giraffe, buffalo, leopard, deer, jaguar, mountain sheep, bobcat, moose, wart hog, hartebeest, wolverine, kudu, topi, zebra, lion and many others that bring the curious to Ole’s Steakhouse & Lounge.

Ole’s retirement gave another Paxton native, Tim Holzfaster and his wife, Deb, an opportunity to become the owners of this oasis for weary travelers.

“We just try to provide good food and service,” Holzfaster said.

Proof of that lies with the local people, including women and children, who are as likely to be seated under a five-point white-tailed deer as a family from Omaha or a salesman from Michigan.

Ole’s and Swede’s are located on Main Street at Paxton, just one minute north of Interstate 80 off exit 145. Ole’s Big Game Steakhouse & Lounge is a link between the past and the future you won’t want to miss.

Be sure to stop. You’ll love the food and the adventure.
ARTHUR — This Sandhills community of 120 residents, located 35 miles north of Ogallala on Nebraska State Highway 61, offers not only a spectacular view of the famed geological and scenic wonder known as the Nebraska Sandhills, but has three unique attractions for travelers.

They include the world’s only Baled Hay Church, the world’s tiniest courthouse and the historic Mill Camp Log Cabin built in 1877.

In 1927, members of the Pilgrim Holiness faith baled straw on the Jim Nielson place north of Arthur, tying the straw with wire by hand. Herb McMullen used mules to haul the straw to town.

The bales were stacked on edge with three laths driven through each to hold them together to form the walls. The 28 by 50 foot building was covered with stucco on the exterior and plastered on the inside. Four rooms on the north were made into the parsonage living quarters.

The building was dedicated on July 22, 1928.

In 1963, the name was changed to the Wesleyan Church when two congregations combined. The building was used until 1967.

In 1940, the church was featured in Ripley’s “Believe It Or Not” as the only church in the world made of straw.

For years, the building sat vacant, cracking and falling apart. The Arthur County Historical Society bought the building for $1 and took on the responsibility of restoring and saving this piece of history in 1976 as part of a Bicentennial project. The restoration cost $5,700 and countless hours of volunteer work as well. In 1985, the parsonage was restored into living quarters as it used to be, using antiques long stored in the old courthouse.

Also featured in Ripley’s “Believe It Or Not” was Arthur County’s tiny 26 by 28 foot courthouse, which served Arthur County from 1914 until the courthouse was closed in 1961. The structure was featured in “Believe It Or Not” as the smallest courthouse in the U.S.

Thanks to the Arthur County Historical Society, the courthouse still contains furnishings in use when the courthouse closed in 1961.

A third historical attraction in Arthur is the historic Mill Camp Log Cabin built in 1877 by the Bratt Land & Cattle Co., an outfit which ran thousands of head of cattle over a huge cattle empire.

Its ranching empire stretched over an area running 73 miles north and south and 24 miles east and west.

Built with cedar logs cut from trees along the Dismal River and hauled by teams of oxen, the cabin, which was once used by Col. Wm. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and his partner, Frank North, was moved to Mill Camp 22 miles northeast of Arthur in 1884. In 1977, it was donated to the Arthur County Historical Society by Bernice (Mrs. Renold) Acomber. It now stands in North Park in Arthur.
THE LATEST TOYS - Kiteboarding and kitesurfing have become quite popular at Lake McConaughy. With the white sand beaches at Lake Mac and Nebraska’s propensity to always have some type of breeze blowing, it’s no wonder that throngs of these boarders and surfers have found Lake McConaughy to their liking.

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ENJOYING THE AFTERNOON BY THE BAY - Lake Mac offers numerous bays that allow visitors not only to camp at the water's edge, but boaters and personal watercraft operators to be able to coast right up to a beachside campsite. Recreational vehicles, boats and Jet Skis can be set up near the water's edge. Although this day was windy (notice the flags and main body of water in the background), the bay water is calm. Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District officials expect water levels to begin the season at lower levels than the previous several years, allowing plenty of beach for visitors to spread out. Visitors must have a park entry permit and are asked to pay the appropriate camping fees.

Golf Course Hours:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
April 1-mid May
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
during the summer
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FISHERMEN’S PARADISE - While walleye are the most sought-after fish, Lake McConaughy is home to several other species, including white bass and northern pike, that draw interest from anglers. Lake McConaughy has proven, year after year, to have the best walleye fishery in Nebraska and one of the best fisheries in the Midwest. As the cover testifies, trophy fish are waiting for fishermen to pluck them from the natural habitat.

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MAKING A HARD RIGHT - At full pool, Lake Mac boasts 35,000 surface acres and 105 miles of shoreline, making it a preferred destination for water and beach enthusiasts. Fed from Rocky Mountain water runoff, the lake is usually cold until early summer, making wetsuits a preferred option in May and usually most of June. As the water warms, the number of water and beach enthusiasts increases as the summer moves toward fall.

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KEEP CALM AND THINK OF THE BEACH

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