Saying goodbye
Don Walton looks back at ‘scary year’ and ahead to 2022. **LOCAL**

By the numbers
Husker men searching for answers after early struggles. **SPORTS**

A changed economy

Nebraska’s hidden gems

Annual Passport Program links natives and newcomers to 70 different locations

Jenna Hobbs
Lincoln Journal Star

Bob Marshall grew up in Nebraska and has lived there for nearly his entire life. But at age 68, he still doesn’t think he’s seen all of his home state. The Nebraska Passport program is helping him get there. Marshall and the wife he’s been with for 48 years, and have lived in Lincoln at each place, have participated in the program for years, seeing and learning more about Nebraska at each place they visit.

“When we’re visiting Nebraska, there are just a lot of interesting things, places, and people to visit in its different places,” Marshall said. “The more passport sites that we’ve visited in the state, the more enthralled we’ve been in our great state and all the highlights that are in it.”

The Nebraska Passport program, organized by Nebraska Tourism, connects natives and newcomers to the Cornhusker State with hidden gems from border to border. Each year, 70 sites are selected, from state parks to museums, restaurants, stores and more.

Nebraska Tourism President and CEO Brent Martin said, “This is a way to help people learn about and see more of Nebraska and its hidden gems that are not necessarily evident.”

 cultivated workers

Employed at a fast food restaurant in Sacramento, California, unprepared for working in stifling heat for low wages, demanded more pay and a new air conditioner—and get both. Orders poured in to an Italian auto supplier, which struggled to get hold of enough supplies of everything from plastic to microchips to meet the demand. A drought in Taiwan magnified a worldwide shortage of computer chips— vital to auto and electronics production. Workers in the U.S. hadn’t experienced anything like this for decades. Meanwhile, after years of ultra-low inflation, prices rocketed in 2021 while the state rate hit 8.3%.

Economist at the Institute of International Finance, a trade group of financial firms.

Faced with staffing shortages that forced cancellations.

There were dire predictions for answers after early struggles. For the rest of 2022, Marshall said, “We are lifelong Nebraskans, seeing and learning about places and the things we’ve visited in the state, and all the highlights that are in it.”

Local state, continue to boom, despite pandemic, labor challenges

The Paden family crosses the Meridian Bridge, which connects Nebraska and Wyoming. The state flag is seen all of his home state. The Nebraska Passport program links natives and newcomers to 70 different locations.

Annual Passport Program

Program links natives and newcomers to 70 different locations. Passport sites requested: 110; Total stamps collected: 6,000.

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