

Trip with kids

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Wednesday, 07 August 2013 20:16 -

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

It amazes me that every year I buy into the idea that life will slow down after we get past t-ball and move into July. July is just a blur and BOOM it's August and school will start in two weeks.

In the past couple weeks we've crossed showing calves at the Dundy County Fair off our list of things to-do. We managed to survive swimming lessons and with time running out on our summer we moved on to one of the most important items on our list.

A visit to the Stuckwisch family in Odell.

My daughter and Preston were in the same grade at Chase County. They "dated" as kindergarteners and, as the day for their move came, we made a date to come visit.

So Tuesday after we finished up swimming lessons the kids and I loaded up and started the five hour drive to Odell.

The general rule at our house is that the car's DVD players don't get hooked up for any trip less than an hour and a half (the time it takes to drive to my parents). We were all very excited about the distraction of a movie or three. The trip was blissfully quite and argument free.

We stopped to fuel up at Araphoe and made it all the way to Fairbury before we stopped to eat.

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Realistically we made very good time. Unfortunately, we made it to Odell at bedtime.

Our biggest problem as we got nearer to our destination was the lack of cell service. While Odell is smaller than Wauneta, we didn't have any idea where the Lutheran parsonage was. My best guess was to swing by the post office and try to find a phone book. Luckily the woman who walked into the post office ahead of me was a Lutheran.

Pastor Greg had said the area had a large Lutheran population, but it was still a surprise when she said head up the street to the stop sign and "our church" is two blocks over and "our parsonage" is across the street from the church.

Her instructions were dead on and the parsonage was easy to identify thanks to the Stuckwisch children strung out along both sides of the street. Everyone was out checking on the progress of the basement for the new parsonage and visiting with the neighbors.

After a very warm welcome, a little bit of a tour and a lot of herding we started the process of getting six kids settled down and ready for bed in the two bedroom house.

It took a while, but one-by-one the fidgeting, the giggling, the crying stopped and quiet settled over the house.

We spent the next morning playing and then spent most of the afternoon at the very nice pool in Wymore with the help of two high school girls who are members of the church.

After the previous long night, Preston, my kids and I loaded up and headed to Lincoln to a hotel room. The kids swam at the hotel both evening and morning, before we met Greg and Janet and headed to the Strategic Air and Space Museum.

My goal for the trip was to line up all the kids next to an airplane with a copy of the Breeze for the annual vacation issue.

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Have you ever tried to get six kids under seven to all stand in one place and smile at the same time? First my son didn't want to have his picture taken. Then we couldn't get the girls to turn the paper the right way. By the time we got the paper fixed, five heads were turned in five directions.

Overall we had a great time. SASM is one of my favorite places in Nebraska. If the kids didn't like looking at the planes there were the escalators to ride.

From there we said our goodbyes and made promises for another trip next year. The Stuckwishes headed home while we spent one more night in Lincoln to do some school shopping before traveling back west. There wasn't any talking when the lights went off that night. They were tired kids.

It was a fun trip.

My son came home with a hunters orange shirt that says "I may be cute, but this girl can hunt."

My daughter came home with a hot pink show stick for next year's fair.

I'm happy to see our friends happy and settled in a new place.