

September, 2018



## Nebraska's Best Destinations on a Tank of Gas

by Mike Dyer

Every year, people from around the country and around the world fly in to Nebraska to see our backyard. We are very fortunate to live so close to destinations we can get to with a tank of gas on a day-trip.

Two popular destinations I can visit within a day are the Sandhill crane viewing spots in Grand Island, where Jane Goodall travels to every spring, and Ashfall Fossil Bed, a hotspot for archaeologists worldwide. Some of the best parts of these trips, along with the beautiful destinations, are the hours I get to spend with my wife and daughters and the delicious food stops we make along the way.

My last day-trip was to Ashfall Fossil Bed on a Sunday morning. My daughter finished singing in her Lincoln choir early enough to make it to Royal, Nebraska just before lunch. To our surprise, the Green Gables of Pleasant Valley, a restaurant we'd visited in Royal twenty years before, was still open! Luckily, the homemade pie was just as good as I remembered.

I encourage every Nebraska resident to fill up their tank with gas and see what our state has to offer!



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## Meet The Intern!

Hi! I'm Mackenzie Schmidt, and I am a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I am majoring in Political Science and Global Studies, with minors in Arabic and National Security Studies, with the hopes of someday being involved in international relations in the Middle East.

I would love to attend law school after I receive my undergraduate degree, and I'm very grateful for this

opportunity to get a closer look into the legal world! Along with my internship at Dyer Law, I hope to stay involved on campus with student government, journalism, and choir. I'm looking forward to this academic year and all of the experience my internship with Dyer Law will bring!



## Clearing The Confusion

### The Difference Between SSI and SSDI

At first glance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSDI) look like very similar programs—and, in some senses, they are. Both programs are administered by the Social Security Administration, and both provide payments for the federally disabled, but there are some fundamental differences that separate the two.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a program designed to meet the basic food and shelter needs of a specific group of people: the elderly, the blind, and the disabled. Recipients of this program must meet its strict financial requirements, and payments made to recipients are reduced based on individual income—meaning they are usually less than those awarded by SSDI. Recipients of this

program, however, receive Medicaid to cover their medical costs, which is a more comprehensive plan than that of Medicare and covers more expenses.

Social Security Disability (SSDI), on the other hand, is a much less selective program that is available to any disabled person who has paid into Social Security for at least 10 years. The payments made to recipients are also based on income, but they are generally higher than those made by SSI. However, recipients of this program receive Medicare rather than Medicaid, which only covers basic and primary medical costs compared to the latter.

# Intersections To Dodge

While distracted driving can and does cause vehicular accidents all over Nebraska, there are a few intersections in Omaha and Lincoln that seem to result in more crashes than others. Many drivers involved in these crashes cite commonalities between the intersections, such as confusing turn lanes, excessive traffic, and counterproductive traffic lights as the reasons for the continuous issues. Whatever the cause, here are some intersections you may want to avoid on your next commute.

In Omaha, one small intersection that gets a lot of attention from police and clean-up crews is 24th and St. Mary's Avenue. Over the past few years, nearby residents have witnessed multiple crashes—one even involving a flipped car.



Officials believe the high crash rate is due to westbound traffic consistently running red lights, which is worrisome, because a youth program in the area also results in high amounts of pedestrian traffic by young children.

132nd and West Center, once voted the worst intersection in America by Streetsblog, also sees its fair share of accidents due to multiple lanes of traffic and confusing signals and lights. Another West Center intersection, 264th and West Center, tops our list of bad Omaha intersections. With traffic traveling at highway speeds, this is one of the most difficult turns in the Metro area and has resulted in multiple fatal motorcycle accidents over the years.

When it comes to Lincoln, officials cite distracted driving—mainly, texting—as the primary culprit in traffic accidents. This rings true at the intersections of South 70th and Wedgewood and the roundabout at 14th and Superior. Drivers who frequent these intersections say viewing multiple drivers on their phones is a frequent occurrence. Another spot in Lincoln that yields a high crash rate, presumably due to excessive traffic and multiple turn lanes is 27th and Cornhusker. Officials and drivers alike deem these intersections to be the worst of the worst.

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