

Republic County

Excitement, history get together again

Republic County is excited to have some favorite attractions returning to Belleville. The Kansas Junior Miss scholarship program is back in Belleville.

And the Boyer Museum of Animated Carvings (formerly Boyer Gallery), will be reopening May 2. This popular and mystifying attraction will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m., and other times by appointment. The phone number is (785) 527-5884. Boyer Museum is filled with amazing animated carvings created by Paul Boyer and it is a "must see."

The Historic Blair Theater has been renovated and will be reopening this year and will offer first-run movies as well as capabilities for live performances on the reconstructed stage.

Belleville, at the crossroads of U.S. 36 and four-lane U.S. 81, is the county seat and the downtown features an art deco style courthouse on the town square. Belleville offers some unique shopping including antique stores, an old-fashioned soda fountain, homemade fudge, a destination quilt shop, and a brand new destination home décor store and coffee shop.

Belleville is dedicated to preserving history. The Republic County Historical Society Museum complex on U.S. 36 is worth visiting.

The High Banks Hall of Fame National Midget Auto Racing Museum was developed to honor the history of auto racing on the Belleville High Banks race track.

The Belleville Public Library houses a Works Progress Administration Museum Project Collection. The collection features dolls, prints of Kansas landmarks, Kansas wildflower paintings and wooden models. WPA projects to view around town are the above-mentioned courthouse, the swimming pool, the band shell in the park, and the stone grandstand.

Belleville is famous for the fastest half-mile oval dirt track in the world. Belleville is home to the Midget National races held July 27-28. Other racing events are held in the summer as well. The NCK Kansas Free Fair is the largest free fair in the state. The dates are July 24-28, in conjunction with the Midget Nationals.

Belleville Area Chamber hosts a home and garden show in early April every year, and the Autumn Days festival, a day of crafts, games, entertainment and food which will be held on Oct. 6.

The Crossroads Car Festival is held every year on the Saturday before Father's Day, with a parade downtown and a show during the afternoon in shady Belleville City Park. It is the largest single-day event of its kind in the midwest. This year will be the 25th annual event.

Belleville has a tourist information center which serves free coffee, gives friendly directions and has Kansas tourism pamphlets. Crafts and gifts are for sale and there is an area to walk dogs.

The community of Cuba has a rich Czechoslovakian heritage. You can buy ethnic Czech meats or stroll through the Cuba National Geographic Gallery to see 30 years of photos by Jim

Richardson, National Geographic photographer. The Gallery is part of an antique mall. Cuba hosts two festivals during the year. The Harvest Festival will be July 21 and the week-long Cuba Rock-a-thon is the third week of March. Also worth coming to see is a new stone statue of an immigrant Czech family. For more information call (785) 729-3861 weekday mornings.

Close to Cuba is the community of Agenda, where you will find a unique antique and gift store.

The community of Munden has the privilege of hosting the Republic Co. Czech Festival. The Spring Festival is always held the Sunday following Easter and the Fall Festival is always held the last Saturday in October.

The community of Scandia has a strong Scandinavian heritage. The Scandia museum helps preserve that heritage. There is an antique mall and a Scandinavian boutique and other unique shopping available. There is a historic bed and breakfast near Scandia.

On the way to Courtland you will find the Depot Market and Cider Mill which offers a variety of homegrown Kansas products and produce. Courtland has an antique shop and The Courtland Arts Center which features traveling art displays. They also host a popular summer event in July known as Courtland Fun Day.

A must-stop attraction is the Pawnee Indian Village State Historic Site located near the community of Republic. The site features thousands of artifacts that tell the story of the Pawnee Nation. Call (785) 361-2255 for more information.

The Belleville Country Club and Buffalo Park at Scandia offer great golfing opportunities.

Rock Pond Park in Belleville has RV camp sites with all the hook-ups and needed facilities.

Republic County boasts some of the best hunting in the nation with pheasant, quail, turkey, deer and dove availability.

Contact the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, (785) 527-5524.



THE HIGH BANKS HALL OF FAME and National Midget Auto Racing Museum in Belleville features interactive displays that describe the history of racing, restored historic midget racing cars and more than 20,000 historic photographs, trophies and racing artifacts. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. There is a small admission fee.



Schedule of Events

MARCH

March 13-17 — Kansas Junior Miss, Belleville
 March 18-24 — Cuba Rock-a-thon
 March 31 — Home & Garden Show, Belleville

APRIL

April 1 — Home & Garden Show, downtown Belleville
 April 5 — Republic County Czech Festival, Munden
 April 21-22 — Northern Exposure Cattle Show, fairground Belleville

MAY

May 31 — Miss Republic Co. Scholarship Program, Republic Co. High School in Belleville

JUNE

June 1-3 — Crossroads Classic Gelbvieh Cattle Show, fairground, Belleville
 June 16 — 25th Annual Crossroads Car Festival, Belleville
 June 17 — World of Outlaws Late Model Series, Belleville High Banks
 June 29-30 — Mid America Youth Basketball Tournament (MAYB),

JULY

July 1 — Mid America Youth Basketball Tournament, Belleville
 July 1 — O'Reilly NCRA Late Models, Modifieds, Street Stocks & Cruisers, Belleville High Banks

July 7 - Sept. 29 — Farmer's Market Every Sat. morning, downtown Belleville
 July 14 — River Fest, July 14, Scandia
 July 21 — Cuba Harvest Festival
 July 24-28 — NCK Free Fair July 24-28, fairground Belleville
 July 24 — Belleville Races on the High Banks TBA
 July 28 — O'Reilly NCRA 360 Sprint Cars plus cruisers, Belleville High Banks
 July 27-28 — Courtland Fun Day
 July 27-28 — 30th Annual Midget Nationals

AUGUST

August 19 — O'Reilly NCRA 360 Spring Cars plus Cruisers and Mod Lites, Belleville High Banks

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 — O'Reilly NCRA Late Models, Modifieds, Street Stocks & Cruisers, Belleville High Banks

OCTOBER

Oct. 6 — Autumn Days Festival, October 6, Belleville.
 Oct. 28 — Republic County Fall Czech Festival, Munden

NOVEMBER

Nov. 10 — Veteran's Day Parade, downtown Belleville
 Nov. 23 — Christmas on the Square, Belleville
 Nov. 24 — Cuba Hometown Christmas
 Nov. 25 — Victorian Christmas Lighting Festival, Scandia