

# COZAD LOCAL

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## Cozad Collective Launches Local Art Gallery

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Collective has opened in the heart of downtown, the Cozad Business District, offering a new space dedicated to local artists and the stories behind their work. The gallery adds a contemporary chapter to Cozad's long-standing artistic legacy, one that builds on the influence of the Robert Henri Museum while focusing on past and present artists working today.

The Cozad Collective looks forward while the RHM honors the historic nationally known artists. Cozad Collective has created a place where current artists can share their work, connect with the community, and reach potential collectors.

"We want artists who have art they did as a hobby and maybe stored it in their closets, to see the potential it has," Haymaker Creative District Coordinator Bonnie Hubbard said. She worked alongside Robyn Geiser and Jen McKeone to shape the vision. The conversations kept returning to the same question, "Why not create more gallery spaces in open, accessible areas of town?" From that question, the Collective began to take form.

Hubbard helped guide the project from concept to opening. She said the idea grew from a desire to give local artists more visibility and opportunity.

"We need to do more; we need to do bigger," Hubbard said. "Everything kept coming back to why can't they have more galleries in open spaces right here in Cozad."

The project also builds on the creative foundation already present in Cozad's business district. Following the passing of Mark McKeone, whose law office displayed artwork, they recognized both the available space and the depth of local art already waiting to be shared. The gallery now fills the hallways in the Cozad Business District, complete with benches that invite visitors to slow down and spend time with the work.

The layout reflects the purpose of the gallery. Rather than a single destination room, the space functions as a walk-through experience, encouraging everyday

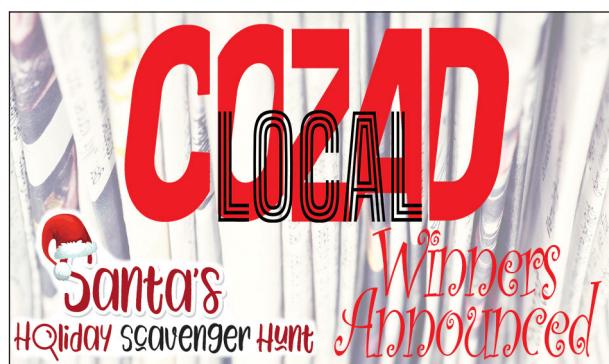


Haymaker Creative and Historic District Coordinator Bonnie Hubbard proudly shares the newly launched Cozad Collective Art Gallery at the Cozad Business District. (LOCAL Photo)

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## Weather Forecast

Jan. 9: 42/20	
Jan. 10: 41/19	
Jan. 11: 45/27	
Jan. 12: 55/25	
Jan. 13: 53/28	
Jan. 14: 55/26	
Jan. 15: 54/25	



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# The Wallet that Accidentally Started a Life Lesson

I thought buying my kid a wallet would be a low-risk parenting decision. Somewhere between socks and a gift card.

I was wrong.

My son is his father's child through and through, a penny-pincher, a "do I really need this?" kid. This is the same child who will stand in a store's aisle calculating the cost-per-use of a fishing pole like he's changing the world with a purchase. So, the wallet made sense. The one he was using came from a trip he took when he was five. It had survived childhood, vacations, and at least one run through the washing machine. Frankly, it was a liability.

What I didn't plan for was the emotional impact caused by a piece of clear plastic.

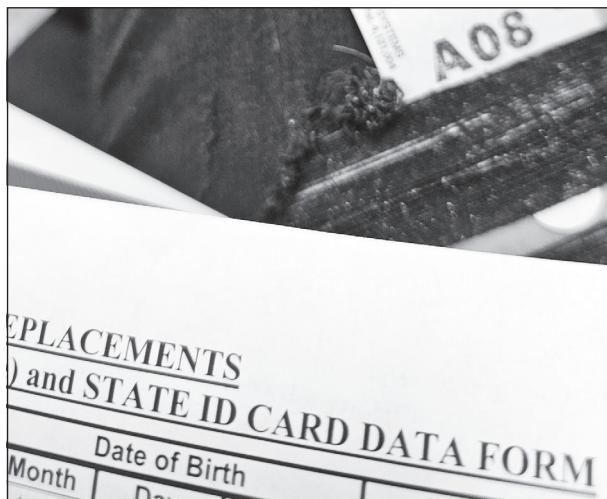
You know the slot. The driver's license window. To me, it was just... there, it always has been. To him, it was a reminder of something he doesn't have and might never get. That tiny rectangle went from 'saving money' to a 'personal attack' immediately.

So, we researched. Together. This isn't the first time this topic has cracked my heart open. When his friends drive over or offer him rides, there's that squeeze, part grief for the future I pictured, deep gratitude that these kids didn't disappear when my son's life got complicated.

Facts help him. He likes facts because they don't change. His life is full of uncertainty, so statistics matter. In Nebraska, if someone goes three months without a seizure, you can drive.

Three months became his hope and I was devastated. We had finally stopped counting days and started accepting our lives, some of us more than others, but progress nonetheless. Then suddenly we were back in

Liz Romero



countdown mode.

That night, he had a seizure. Because life enjoys irony. When he woke up, he said, "So... three more months."

I gave him the smile all moms know. The one that says I'm so sorry, but I can't do anything to change this, all the while your brain is doing math it absolutely did not have permission to do. In three months, he'd already had 63 seizures. Insert the sad smile.

Sleep was impossible. Around 2 a.m., when your brain is both exhausted and wildly confident, it hit me.

No, he can't drive. But by golly, we can fill that clear space.

The next day, we went to the DMV. My middle-of-the-night brain did not think that through. End of the month. Between holiday closures. End of the year. My brain has a sick sense of humor.

There were excited new drivers sweating with nerves, adults who clearly regretted putting off getting their license renewed, and one dad pacing like he broke the speed limit to get there and was just waiting for a cop to hand him a ticket. My husband doesn't speed, but he definitely should work on his patience.

Eventually, our number eight was called. We handed over our documents, and we proudly asked for a state-issued photo ID.

That night, after another seizure, our son didn't wake up talking about three more months. He didn't count. He didn't calculate. The space was filled.

I'm not saying something down the road won't restart the countdown; life loves a sequel, but it wasn't today. And today counts.

If this had been one of my older kids getting their driver's license, I'm sure I wouldn't have waited that long. I would have been the impatient mom pacing, checking the clock, telling them we could just come back. But knowing what matters to each child is the real win.

This didn't look like staying home from work to sit with a heartbroken kid after a breakup or playing hooky with a kid who just needed a mental break. It looked like hours wearing jeans at the DMV. And hours of our lives we'll never get back.

This week is about the little big deals. The things that seem insignificant to you but mean everything to someone else. Make the time. Take the moments.

Next week might be about how my husband bought the wrong toothpaste, and my taste buds are questioning his sanity for messing up my morning routine. I don't know, we'll find out together. Just stick around. I want you here.

*A simple fixer mom, Liz*

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Letters to the Editor

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# Cozad Development Announces Robyn Geiser as New Executive Director

COZAD LOCAL

Cozad Development is pleased to announce the hiring of Robyn Geiser as its new Executive Director.

Geiser brings a strong commitment to community growth, collaboration, and long-term economic vitality. In her new role, she will lead Cozad Development's efforts to support local businesses, advance housing and workforce initiatives, and strengthen partnerships that enhance Cozad's quality of life.

"Robyn's passion for Cozad and her strategic, community-centered approach make her an excellent fit to lead Cozad Devel-

opment," said Levi Messersmith, president of the Cozad Development Board. "Her leadership will help us build on current momentum while positioning Cozad for continued growth and opportunity."

Geiser has been actively involved in community and economic development efforts and is known for her ability to bring people together around shared goals.

She looks forward to working closely with businesses, community partners, local leaders, and residents to support sustainable development in Cozad.

"I am honored to step back into this role

and excited to work alongside our board, partners, and community members," said Geiser. "Cozad has a strong foundation and tremendous potential, and I look forward to helping move our community forward."

Cozad Development is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting economic development, supporting business growth, and enhancing the overall vitality of the Cozad community.

For more information, please contact:  
Cozad Development  
308-784-8006  
robyn@cozaddevelopment.com



## December's Scavenger Hunt Huge Success, Winners Announced

LIZ ROMERO

Santa's Scavenger Hunt, held in December, brought positive feedback from the community.

The holiday-themed activity encouraged residents to all areas of the newspaper and take part in a seasonal event designed for all ages.

Based on the response, the Cozad LOCAL plans to continue hosting holiday scavenger hunts throughout the year.



The hunts will take place once a month, with each event centered around the holiday or season for that month.

As promised, participants who returned their scavenger hunts were entered into a drawing for Cozad LOCAL gift cards. Three winners were randomly drawn.

Donna Hagen of Farnam won a gift card to JM's Gifts.

Pam Koch won a gift card to DBN

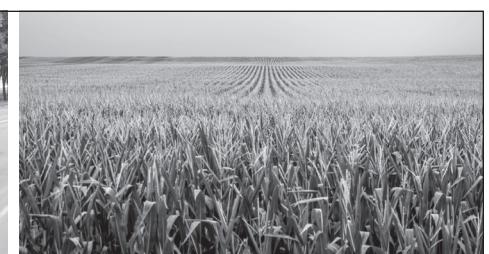
Outdoors.

Lila Brooks won a gift card to Brew'd Awakening.

We thank everyone who took part in the December events and noted that

community participation played a key role in the success of the scavenger hunt.

If any businesses would like to be included in the scavenger hunt, please contact Joy at 308-784-4747.



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# Obituary

**Donna A. Kolbo Christianson** of Cozad passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, at Nebraska Heart Hospital in Lincoln. Donna was born on July 12, 1945, in Lexington to Morris "Tag" and Lucille A. "Sugar" Dillon. She was raised on a farm south of Cozad and graduated from Cozad High School with the class of 1963.

Donna married Gary Kolbo on Oct. 3, 1964, and they were blessed with six boys.

The family was always busy with various activities, and they spent much time together at the church helping with events. Donna's dedication to her family was evident, and she enjoyed cooking and hosting gatherings for family and friends. Donna was especially proud to pass down her love for cooking to her sons. She had a love for gardening, which filled their home with beautiful flowers.

In her life, Donna worked many odd jobs to support her family, including a long tenure as the

secretary at Christ the King Catholic Church for 30 years.

She devoted her time to teaching CCD classes and participated actively in church events, fostering a strong sense of community.

Donna also took on the important role of a Boy Scout den leader while her sons Tony, Dean, and Rick were involved in Boy Scouts, showcasing her dedication to guiding and nurturing young minds.

After retiring in 2016, Donna enjoyed a winter in Mesa, AZ, where she met and married Tony Christianson in 2017.

Together, they split their time between Mesa during the winters and Cozad in the summers, creating new memories and enjoying life together.

Donna thrived in the community, making many friends.

She enjoyed live music and loved to dance, further enriching her years with joy and companion-



ship. Her vibrant spirit and dedication to her family and community will be dearly missed.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband Gary; parents; her mother and father-in-law; brothers, Bob Dillon and Don Dillon; niece, Angie Kolbo and Shanna Dillon.

She is survived by her husband, Tony Christianson; sons, Tony Kolbo of Kearney, Dean (Linda) Kolbo of Schuyler, Rick (Nikki) Kolbo of Lincoln, Wade (Kim) Kolbo of McCook, Ryan Kolbo of Waverly and Zane (Tara) Kolbo of Axtell; step sons, Anthony and Jacob Christianson; 21 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; brothers, George (Margaret) Dillon, Jack (Judy) Dillon and Jim (Robee) Dillon; sister in law Catherine Dillon; brother in law, Norval (Joyce)Kolbo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials are suggested to Christ the King Catholic Church. Mass of the Christian Burial was held on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, at Christ the King Catholic Church. Burial followed at Cozad Cemetery. Visitation with family present was Jan. 4 at Berryman Funeral Home. Rosary will be recited Jan. 4, at Christ the King Catholic Church.

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The walk-through gallery has over a dozen different pieces on display, all of local artists. To book an appointment for a viewing, contact Bonnie Hubbard at the Haymaker Creative and Historic District. (LOCAL Photo)

## from FRONT - Gallery

interaction with art. Visitors can pause, sit, and reflect, much like in larger urban galleries, while remaining rooted in a small-town setting.

Hubbard said the experience of viewing art plays an important role in daily life. She shared everything with excitement. Encouraging everyone to let their mind brainstorm where the artists came up with the piece, the original plan, and how it formed to the finish.

Each piece displayed in the Cozad Collective will include written information about the artwork and the artist. The goal centers on connection, not just presentation. Hubbard wants visitors to understand the story behind each piece, because those stories often drive both admiration and purchase.

"Art makes you ask what the story behind the piece

is," Hubbard said. "Artists do not see obstacles. They look past them and mold an idea into something beautiful."

The Collective operates with a rotating quarterly schedule of artists throughout the year. This rotation allows more artists to participate while keeping the space fresh for repeat visitors. Over time, Hubbard hopes the gallery will connect artists directly with people looking to bring local art into their homes or workspaces.

The long-term vision includes building relationships between artists and collectors, offering a focal point for both creative expression and community support. There is no charge to view the gallery; a decision Hubbard said reflects the importance of accessibility and education. An appointment is encouraged and can be scheduled by contacting Hubbard.

Each featured artist will also receive a private reception, designed to honor their work and invite collectors and admirers into the space. Those interested in attending future receptions can contact Hubbard for details. "This is going to be such a cool gig," Hubbard said. "It's already taking off."

The first artist featured in the Cozad Collective is Trey Botts, who has four deeply connected oil-on-canvas works on display. His pieces range in size and include "Post Burn", "Snake River Falls", "Fire Woods", and "Sunset Woods".

The second artist scheduled for display is Lauren Zimbelman.

As the Cozad Collective begins its rotation of artists, organizers hope the gallery will become a shared space for reflection, creativity, and connection, adding a living, evolving element to Cozad's artistic history.

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# Year in Review

## - Part 2



### JULY

#### Hubbard Brings Lt. Gov. Kelly to Cozad

Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly visited Cozad in June for a tour of the Haymaker Creative and Historic District, following an invitation from district coordinator Bonnie Hubbard. Community leaders welcomed him to the Cozad Business Center, where they shared an overview of the district's goals and highlighted local partnerships that support arts, history, and economic development. Kelly also received a preview of the upcoming Cozad Collective gallery, planned as a rotating exhibition space inside the Business Center to feature both historic and emerging local artists.

The tour continued through downtown Cozad, including public murals, the Cozad Creates Palette Icon at Veteran's Park, the Welcome Garden, and several installations supported by the Nebraska Arts Council and local businesses. Kelly met with artists and partners involved in projects, and each stop emphasized how public art, signage, and creative spaces contribute to community identity and downtown revitalization.

The visit concluded at the Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery, where Kelly toured the renovated gallery space and discussed long-term goals with museum leadership. Hubbard and other organizers noted the importance of support from Cozad Tourism and the Nebraska Arts Council in advancing creative initiatives. Kelly's visit underscored the role of arts and culture in strengthening rural communities, supporting economic growth, and positioning Cozad as a destination rooted in both heritage and creativity.

#### Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Replica at 100th Meridian Museum

A half-size replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is on display at the 100th Meridian Museum in Cozad through Sunday, July 13. The traveling exhibit, provided by Patriotic Productions of Omaha, honors unidentified

service members who gave their lives in service to the nation.

Special events accompany the exhibit, including a patriotic music performance by the Sweet Adelines women's barbershop harmony group on Saturday, July 12. Following the performance, visitors may participate in a quilt "Show and Tell," featuring Quilts of Valor, Quilts of Honor, and other patriotic quilts. Additional quilt displays appear inside the museum and throughout downtown Cozad, coordinated by Julie Geiger of Prairie Point Junction Quilt Shop, with quilts on loan through July 14.

The exhibit also provides historical context about the original Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, first established in 1921 and guarded continuously since 1948 by sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard. Patriotic Productions, which sponsors the replica, also organizes "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibits and Flights of Honor for veterans. Community members are encouraged to visit the display and take part in honoring those who served and sacrificed.



#### Cozad Chamber Hosts Bands, Brews and BBQ

Downtown Cozad saw strong turnout as the Cozad Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Bands, Brews and BBQ event on Saturday, July 12. Families visited more than 20 vendors offering handmade and specialty items, while children enjoyed free bounce houses. The Chamber adjusted the layout this year by placing vendors closer to downtown businesses, helping encourage visitors to shop locally.

The event continued into the evening with an all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner and live music. Six local BBQ teams served brisket, pulled pork, and beans, and live performances by Sweetwater and Tyler Anthony closed out the night. Nearly 500 tickets were sold, and beverage service came from Big E's, the Cozad Elks Club, and the Chamber. A new addition included BBQ trophies and medals donated by DBN Outdoors, recognizing top teams across multiple categories.

Chamber Director Jordan Starman credited the event's success to strong community support, business involve-

ment, and volunteer effort. She noted the return to the original Bands, Brews and BBQ name helped energize the event and boost participation. Local departments, sponsors, board members, and volunteers contributed significant time and resources to ensure the event ran smoothly and safely, reinforcing the Chamber's goal of bringing the community together in downtown Cozad.



#### Cozad Football Hall of Fame Welcomes New Inductees

The Haymaker Booster Club recognized five individuals and three teams during the Cozad Football Hall of Fame ceremony held at the Cozad Country Club on July 25. Individual honorees include Brendan Holbein, Luke Pinkelman, Kelly Petersen, Colin Wetovich, and Jack Lawless. Team plaques were awarded to the 1961, 1991, and 2005 Cozad football teams.

The individual inductees represented multiple eras of Haymaker football and were honored for standout careers that included state championships, All-State recognition, and continued success at the collegiate level. Their contributions reflected strength on both sides of the ball, leadership, and long-term impact on the program. Several inductees also earned recognition in other sports and statewide halls of fame.

Among the team honorees, the 2005 Haymakers stood out for a powerful rushing attack and strong postseason run that resulted in a district title and state playoff records. The Hall of Fame event celebrated Cozad football's tradition of success and honored the athletes and teams who helped shape that legacy.

### AUGUST

#### J.B.K. Fundraiser Brings Community Together for Mental Health Awareness

The J.B.K. – Just Be Kind fundraiser drew strong community support at Jack's Welding and Machine Shop on Aug. 2, with roughly 200 people attending throughout the day. The event focused on raising awareness for mental illness while offering food, activities, and opportunities to give back. Local groups supported the effort, including the Cozad FFA chapter, which provided

a meal by free-will donation, and the Cozad Elks Club, which supplied beverages.

Guests took part in a silent auction featuring more than 30 donated items, along with a cornhole tournament and a BBQ competition that served as the event's main attraction. Eight teams competed for top honors, with .308 BBQ, led by Dallas Maack, earning first place. Live music and shared meals kept people engaged and encouraged neighbors to spend time together.

Jack and LeAnn Muegerl thanked volunteers, donors, and attendees for their support. Proceeds from the event totaled about \$6,200, which will be donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Nebraska in honor of the Koch family. Organizers said the fundraiser honored loved ones while reinforcing the importance of mental health awareness in the community.



## Blacktop Classic Car Show Returns to Downtown Cozad

The second annual Blacktop Classic Car Show took over Meridian Street on Aug. 2, showcasing 75 vehicles including vintage cars, pickups, and rat rods—tripling the size of last year's event. Local businesses partnered to enhance the experience, with Meridian Tap House offering breakfast specials and Big E's serving Bloody Marys. The event drew car enthusiasts and the community downtown to enjoy the growing tradition.

## Berreckmans Receive Make Your Mark on Cozad Award

Claude and Karen Berreckman were named recipients of the 13th annual Make Your Mark on Cozad Award during the C.E.B. Memorial 100th Meridian 10K. Members of the Cozad Library Foundation and Wilson Public Library Director Laurie Yocom surprised the couple with the honor, which recognizes individuals who support the community, the arts, and the Wilson Public Library.

The Berreckmans earned the award through years of volunteer service and community involvement. They have long supported youth activities through the Cozad Youth Track Club and continue to organize the C.E.B. Memorial 5K/10K, which provides scholarship funds for Cozad High School graduates. Their support has also extended to local organizations, churches, and camps, along with steady involvement in Cozad's arts and cultural events.

The Make Your Mark on Cozad Award, inspired by the

book 'The Dot' by Peter H. Reynolds, highlights creativity, collaboration, and courage in community leadership. Library Foundation members selected Claude and Karen unanimously, citing their consistent dedication, civic pride, and support of the library and broader Cozad community.



## Sen. Deb Fischer Visits Cozad to See Haymaker Creative District

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer visited Cozad on Aug. 18 to tour the Haymaker Creative District and witness how the community is using Nebraska Arts Council support to drive cultural and economic growth. Coordinator Bonnie Hubbard led the visit, highlighting projects like the Sculpture Garden at Wilson Public Library, the 'Finding the Art Spirit' mural, and the new Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery.

During the tour, Sen. Fischer saw firsthand how Cozad blends creativity with community development, meeting local artists and business owners and exploring downtown art installations. Hubbard emphasized the district's approach of building on local strengths, encouraging experimentation, and making art a central part of civic life. Fischer expressed admiration for the town's passion, collaboration, and cultural momentum, noting she had not realized the full scope of Cozad's offerings.

## SEPTEMBER

### Cozad Hospital Board Plans Sale of Meadowlark Pointe Assisted Living

The Cozad Hospital Board voted unanimously to put Meadowlark Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility up for sale. This is a planned transition, not a closure, aimed at aligning the facility with ownership specializing in assisted living and memory care.

The move allows Cozad Community Health System to focus on acute, specialty, home health, hospice, surgical, and rehabilitative services while ensuring Meadowlark Pointe continues to operate successfully under new management. Prospective buyers are being carefully vetted with a focus on retaining staff and maintaining the facility's culture and quality of care.



## Cozad High School Celebrates Homecoming Week and Crowns Royalty

Royalty was crowned to Koang Deng and Clatyn Fleharty, who were named King and Queen for the Cozad High School Homecoming. Events organized by the Spirit Club and Student Council. The week featured dress-up days, a pep rally, and community fundraisers, including the annual sloppy joe and pie feed to support new band uniforms.

Homecoming candidates also included Olliver Davis, Abbie Albrecht, Braiton Snider, Rebeca Htoo, Bryson Snider, Abby Negley, Gage Strauss, and Lucha Olvera.

At the pep rally, the COED Jazz group performed, and students participated in class cheers and activities. The week concluded with the Homecoming dance on Sept. 27.

## Wilson Public Library Hosts First MESStival at Muny Park

Muny Park turned into a colorful, laughter-filled playground on Saturday, Sept. 13, as Wilson Public Library held its first MESStival. Assistant Library Director Laura Rody, Youth Director Jennie Smith, and Library Director Laurie Yocom organized the event to offer families from Cozad and surrounding areas a fun, creative, and safe day. Children moved between stations while parents followed, juggling art projects, shoes, and Paradise Ice sno-cones, as paint, bubbles, and foam filled the park.

The lineup of activities was wide-ranging and engaging. MomCo of Dawson County provided balloon art, Waypoint Bank offered sponge painting, Dawson County Extension and 4-H led pom-pom painting, and the Cozad Art Club set up squeegee art. Smith hosted bubble painting, Yocom offered multiple hands-on projects, and Haymaker Creative and Historic District

**cont. PAGE 8 - MESStival**

## from PAGE 7 - MESStival

covered the sidewalks with chalk art. Camp Comeca's shaving cream and water slides, along with Homestead Bank's foam pit, proved especially popular. All activities were free, and Paradise Ice, with support from ZieSTRONG, kept families cool with sno-cones throughout the day.

Inspired by International Dot Day and Peter H. Reynolds' book The Dot, MESStival encouraged kids to explore creativity while having fun. Rody praised the turnout and support from sponsors, saying the community's enthusiasm showed how much Cozad values art, children, and creativity. With the success of its debut, the library hopes MESStival becomes an annual celebration in the community.

## OCTOBER

### Meridian Rentals Transitions to Big Red Supply and Rentals

A familiar Cozad business has new owners as Meridian Rentals officially becomes Big Red Supply and Rentals, led by Michael and Katelyn Woltemath. The couple, originally from Dawson County and owners of Woltemath Woodworking, purchased the business from Gary and Cheryl Brooks, who ran it for over 30 years. Discussions began in March, and the sale closed last week, ensuring continuity of service as the Brooks prepared for retirement.

While the name is changing, the business will continue offering small engine repair, Husqvarna sales, and service for all brands of small engines. The property's 29 storage units will remain available, and the Woltemaths plan to expand equipment rentals and add another outdoor power equipment brand. Community response has been overwhelmingly positive, and the couple hopes to maintain small-town service values while updating operations with a new computer system and potentially adding staff.

The Woltemaths also plan to stay active in the community through local events and youth sports, reflecting their personal connection as parents of three boys. Customers are encouraged to schedule end-of-season mower repairs and snow blower service, and to check out new inventory arriving in the coming weeks. The goal is to build a reputation for reliable, hometown service that matches the quality expected in larger cities—all while keeping the business local.

### Allison Hiett Inducted into Chadron State Hall of Fame

Allison (Allie) Hendrickson Hiett, daughter of Lisa and George Hendrickson of Cozad, was inducted into the Chadron State College Athletic Hall of Fame, Class of 2025. Hiett, along with former teammate Casey Williams, became one of the first two softball players honored

since the program's reinstatement in 2007. The inductees were recognized at halftime of the Eagles' football game against Colorado Mesa.

Hiett played third base for Chadron State from 2007–2010, finishing with a .345 career batting average and leading the program in hits, doubles, home runs, total bases, walks, and RBIs. A 2006 Cozad High School graduate, she earned First Team All-State honors in softball and still ranks among the school's top performers.

Hiett and her husband, Tim, live in Weeping Water with their two children. She works as a certified health coach. "Softball was never just a sport for me—it was family, hard work, and some of the best memories of my life," she said of the honor, which also reflects the support of her coaches, teammates, and family.



### Dairy Queen Honored with "Thank You for Your Faith in Cozad" Award

The Cozad Chamber of Commerce, Cozad Ambassadors, and Cozad Development Corporation recognized Dairy Queen owners Blake and Nathan Greckel with the inaugural "Thank You for Your Faith in Cozad" Award. The honor celebrates business owners who invest in the community and contribute to Cozad's growth. Guests gathered in the Dairy Queen seating area to meet the Greckels, share stories, and express appreciation for the updates and improvements the brothers have made to the restaurant.

Cozad Development Director Jen McKeone presented the award, noting Dairy Queen's role as more than an ice cream shop but a gathering place for families and friends. She praised the Greckels' visible investment and commitment, saying small-town progress often comes from renewed dedication to existing businesses. Blake Greckel accepted on behalf of himself, his brother, and their staff, highlighting the hard work and hands-on approach that keeps the restaurant welcoming and successful. The presentation underscored the impact of local businesses on the community and celebrated the partnership between the Chamber, the CDC, and local entrepreneurs.

### Gretchen Love Inducted into Pittsburg State Athletics Hall of Fame

Gretchen (Clark) Love was honored on Friday, Oct. 31, as part of the 2025 Pittsburg State University Athletics Hall of Fame class. The ceremony, held at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, recognized Love for her outstanding collegiate high jump career. She was among six individual

athletes inducted and was also celebrated at halftime of the Gorillas' Hall of Fame football game against Missouri Southern on Saturday, Nov. 1. Love's early passion for high jumping was nurtured by her uncle, Jim Clark of Gothenburg, and Cozad Youth Track coach Claude Berreckman Jr., both of whom recall her extraordinary athleticism and competitive drive from a young age.

Love set the Cozad High School high jump record in 2007 at 5 feet, 5 inches, a mark later matched in 2017 by Kennedy Berreckman. She began her collegiate career at Doane College, earning three-time conference champion and All-American honors, including a national runner-up finish in the high jump. She transferred to Pittsburg State for her junior and senior years, where she became a four-time NCAA Division II All-American, setting indoor and outdoor personal bests of 5-8.75 and 5-10, respectively. Her performances helped the Gorillas achieve one of their highest team finishes in program history at the 2011 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

After graduating in 2011 with a bachelor of science in elementary education, Love and her husband, Eric—who was a running back on the Gorillas' 2011 national championship football team—moved to the Kansas City area. They returned to Nebraska in 2016, and Love now teaches third grade at Gretna Public Schools. The couple has three children: Adley, 10; Evan, 8; and an infant, Colby. Love's dedication, athletic achievements, and continued commitment to education highlight a remarkable career both on and off the track.

## NOVEMBER

### Cozad LOCAL Honors

#### Veterans, Tribute Honoring Officer Brad Peltier

The Cozad LOCAL recognized local veterans in a special Veterans Tribute, highlighting the service and sacrifice of Cozad Police Officer Brad Peltier for his time in the Army. The tribute also honored his wife, Laura, acknowledging the challenges and contributions of military spouses and parents. The recognition celebrated both the personal and community impact of their dedication.

### Mike's Antiques Celebrates 25 Years of Preserving History

Mike and Jody Gaudreault's Mike's Antiques on 8th Street has been a staple of Cozad for 25 years, offering a mix of vintage collectibles, antique glass, jewelry, tools, and farm equipment. The shop, housed in one of Cozad's oldest commercial buildings, reflects the couple's lifelong passion for collecting and preserving local history.

The store's charm lies not just in its inventory, but in the stories behind each piece, from a vintage classroom toy to ruby glass collectibles. Despite challenges like the 2024 hailstorm, the Gaudreaults have kept the store wel-

coming, hosting occasional jam sessions and sharing their knowledge with visitors. Their focus remains on connecting the community to history and providing a hands-on glimpse into the past.

## Give Big Cozad Raises Nearly \$71,000 for Local Causes

The annual Give Big Cozad event brought the community together at the Cozad Elks Club on Nov. 5, supporting 35 local organizations. Hosted by the Cozad Community Foundation, the fundraiser covers all administrative costs, ensuring every dollar goes directly to participating causes.

This year's theme, Mission Possible, highlighted the collective effort of nonprofits, volunteers, and donors. Donations totaled \$70,917, with groups like the Cozad Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Baseball/Softball Complex, and Grand Generation Center among the top fundraisers. The event celebrated community connection and generosity, reinforcing the ongoing impact of local support throughout Cozad.

## 20th Annual Fall Ball Celebrates Healthcare

The Cozad Hospital Foundation hosted its 20th Fall Ball on Nov. 15 at the Cozad Elks Club, honoring local healthcare professionals and raising funds for ongoing hospital projects. The evening featured live music, hors d'oeuvres, a photo booth, and new interactive events including "Heads or Tails" and Fall Ball Trivia. The event also included the induction of Linda Robertson, Marcia Montgomery, and Tammy McMichael into the 2025 Healthcare Hall of Fame.

Keynote speaker Clayton "Astro Clay" Anderson shared his NASA journey and encouraged perseverance, purpose, and service. Guests participated in silent and live auctions supporting a courtyard pergola project. The Fall Ball highlighted decades of healthcare achievements while fostering community engagement, ensuring the Foundation continues to support medical services, recruit top talent, and enhance local facilities.

## Cozad High's Camryn Yilk Named Believers & Achievers Honoree

Cozad High School senior Camryn Yilk has been selected as one of 48 statewide honorees for the 2025-2026 Believers & Achievers awards, recognizing students for academic excellence and participation in NSAA activities. Camryn, daughter of Jeremy and Elizabeth Yilk, maintains a 4.0 GPA, has earned numerous academic and arts awards, and is active in play production, speech, music, and band.

Beyond academics and NSAA activities, Camryn has held leadership roles in Student Council, Spirit Club,

Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the Dance Team. She also contributes to community service, assisting with youth theater, mentoring younger students, organizing the CHS Canned Food Drive, and volunteering at Camp Comeca. Her achievements reflect the program's emphasis on scholarship, activity participation, community involvement, and citizenship.

## DECEMBER

### Cozad Bartenders Celebrate Their Craft on National Bartender Appreciation Day

In honor of National Bartender Appreciation Day on Dec. 5, the Cozad LOCAL visited local bars to spotlight the people behind the counter who do more than pour drinks—they offer conversation, support, and a welcoming atmosphere. Big E's, Frontier Frau, and Meridian Tap House joined the celebration, sharing what drinks they enjoy making most. At Big E's, favorites included Car Bombs, Cherry Bombs, and Bloody Marys, while owner Shelby Dyches-Chandler enjoys trying any new customer creations.

Frontier Frau's bartenders Bryce and Rory highlighted the Strawberries and Cream Valentine's Day Cocktail, Cosmopolitan, and S'mores Radler as their go-to drinks. At Meridian Tap House, the team shared a variety of favorites, from Bob Marleys and Old Fashions to Dirty Shirleys and Margaritas. Cozad's bartenders mix more than drinks—they create spaces for connection, conversation, and community, a role that deserves recognition every day.



## Cozad Kicks Off Holiday Season with Tree Lighting, Parade, and Community Events

Cozad welcomed the holiday season on Dec. 1 with the lighting of the town Christmas tree, an effort led by Chamber Director Jordan Starman and Jack's Welding. The green space now glows with bright lights, drawing families downtown to celebrate. Miss Mia Jackson, a student at CEC recognized for her kindness and positive attitude, was honored as the 2025 Christmas Lighter. The Winter Wonderland parade, hosted

by Cozad Community Leaders, followed the tree lighting, featuring performances by the middle and high school bands, the dance and cheer teams, and festive displays from local businesses and organizations.

The holiday celebration continued Dec. 6 with family-friendly activities throughout the community. The 100th Meridian Museum hosted Pancakes with Santa, TLDC's little dancers performed their Christmas Showcase, and the Wilson Public Library held the Pony Express Christmas Card Re-Ride. The Holiday Shoppe at the Grand Generation Center drew crowds once again, and live reindeer Wednesday and Everdeen were on hand from Blue Star Christmas Tree and Reindeer Farm in Wood River. Wil Bilsland reprised his role as Santa for the second year, delighting children throughout the week, while the Fox Theater offered free admission to 'The Grinch'.

Starman expressed gratitude to the many volunteers and organizations who helped make the celebrations possible, including the City Street and Electric Departments, Cozad Police, Jack's Welding, SkillsUSA students, Teammates mentors, and the Chamber Retail Committee. Their contributions ensured that decorations, lights, and the Santa House were ready for the community to enjoy, highlighting the spirit and teamwork that make Cozad's holiday events special.



## Cozad Scouts BSA Troop 1189 Seeks Support to Continue Program

Scouts BSA Troop 1189 in Cozad may face disbandment due to low membership, putting an important youth program for grades 6-12 at risk. While Pack 187 serves younger Cub Scouts, Troop 1189 supports older Scouts, and currently has only two boys and one girl—too few for separate recognition under Mid-America Council rules. Troop leaders are seeking approval to operate as a co-ed, combined troop to keep the program active.

Despite its small size, Troop 1189 remains active in the community, hosting fundraisers like a hamburger feed after HayDays, attending summer camp at the Dane G. Hansen Scout Reservation, and participating in the Cozad Memorial Day Program. The troop meets Mondays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, and leaders are seeking new Scouts, adult volunteers, and merit badge counselors to ensure its survival. Families and community members interested in supporting or joining can contact Jessica Beisner at [beisnerjl@gmail.com](mailto:beisnerjl@gmail.com) or 308-325-3241.

# SPORTS



## Lady Haymakers Take Second Win of the Season

JAYDEN WILLS

On Dec. 30, the girls' Haymaker basketball team traveled to Central City for their final game in the Runza Holiday Tournament. Cozad started strong, scoring 20 points in the first quarter while holding Central City to 4. In the second quarter, Cozad added 9 points and allowed 13, sending the teams to halftime with Cozad ahead 29-17.

The Lady Haymakers regained their rhythm in the third quarter, scoring 20 points while limiting Central City to 7. In the final quarter, Cozad added 13 points and only allowed 2 in return. The Lady Haymakers earned their second win of the season with an outstanding 62-26 victory.

Leading the Haymakers to their win were Braelyn Malcom with 13 points and 8 rebounds. Emersym Propp scored 11 points and grabbed 6 rebounds.

On Jan. 3, the Lady Haymakers traveled to Ord to take on the Chanticleers. Ord squeezed out the Haymakers for the win 50-42. Stats were unavailable at the time of press, (1/5/2026).



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- **Environmental Services Tech**  
Night Shift
- **Perioperative Circulating RN**  
PRN

Last updated on December 2025



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## Delicious Three-Peat for Haymaker Runza Tournament Champs

JAYDEN WILLS

The Haymakers' boys' basketball team traveled to Wood River for a matchup in the Runza holiday tournament on Dec. 29 where they dominated Wood River with a final score of 78-32.

The first quarter the Haymakers came out of the locker room ready to play, scoring a dominating 20 points while holding the Eagles to 11 points.

In the second quarter, the Haymakers were able to ramp up the intensity and score a massive 25 points. The Haymakers played outstanding defense; they were able to stop Wood River many times and only gave up 12 points.

Cozad went into the locker room at half with a strong 45-23 lead. The Haymakers scored another 17 points in the third quarter. They were again able to hold Wood River to 7.

In the final quarter, Cozad was able to find the basket for another 16 points. Cozad rounded out the game with extraordinary defense, keeping Wood River to only 2 points. The final score of the game was 78-32.

The game's leading players were Kellen Shoemaker. Shoemaker scored an impressive 32 points, with 3 rebounds. Chayden Hoffmaster led Cozad on the rebounds bracket, with 8 rebounds and 10 points.

On Dec. 30, the Haymakers traveled

to Central City with an impressive 8-0 record to play the McCool Junction Mustangs (5-3) for the Runza Holiday Tournament Championship.

In the first quarter, using the momentum of their huge win, the Haymakers marched their way to the net for 19 points. Cozad was also prepared on defense, holding the Mustangs to 9.

During the second quarter, Cozad ramped up to another level. Cozad scored 22 points while keeping the Mustangs under control with only 6 points. After two quarters, the Haymakers had the lead with a score of 41-15.

Coming out after halftime, the Haymakers were still carrying their momentum and scored another 15 points. Cozad wasn't able to stop the Mustangs on defense, allowing them to score 14 points.

In the last quarter, the Haymakers had a substantial lead where they added 8 more points. The Mustangs matched the Haymakers with 8. Despite the Mustangs efforts, Cozad took the Championship with a final score 64-37, for the third year in a row.

Haymaker leaders were Gage Strauss with 14 points. Strauss excelled on defense with 9 rebounds. Shoemaker added 14 points as well and a respective 4 rebounds.



Cozad receives the Runza Holiday Tournament trophy after winning the tournament for the third straight year. (LOCAL Photo by Jayden Wills)

On Jan. 3, Cozad traveled to Ord for a regular-season matchup against the Chanticleers with an unblemished 9-0 record on the line. The Haymakers entered the night with confidence following recent wins and a tournament title.

Cozad set the tone early, scoring 14 points in the first quarter while limiting Ord to 12. The Haymakers carried a slim 14-12 lead after one. The momentum continued in the second quarter as Cozad added 17 points and held the Chanticleers to 14. Cozad took a 31-26 advantage into halftime.

After the break, the Haymakers found their rhythm with 22 added points in the third quarter and al-

lowed just 10, stretching their lead. Cozad maintained its pace in the final quarter, adding 14 more points while only allowing Ord 9.

The Haymakers closed out a 69-49 win and im-

proved their record to 10-0.

Oliver Davis led Cozad just shy of a double-double with 27 points and 9 rebounds, pacing the team in both categories. Strauss followed with 12 points.

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## Seven Cozad Seniors Graduate at Mid-Term

Congratulations to the mid-term graduates of the Cozad High School Class of 2026 who walked across the stage on Saturday, Jan. 3. From left are Garek Gruber, Josef Flores, Brecken Twyford, Jessica Guthard, Swaisen Mroczek, Abigail Kendrick-Twine and Destiny McFall, pictured in their caps and gowns with diplomas in hand. (Courtesy Photo)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS: THURSDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup> - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

### 8 THUR

5:30 PM - Boy Scouts Serve @ GGC  
GWR @ High Plains Community  
5PM - Dine In/ Drive Thru Meal @ GGC

### 9 FRI

11AM - Storytime @ WPL  
BWR @ High Plains Community  
GWR @ Malcom G & BBB @ Home

### 10 SAT

Speech @ Lexington  
BWR @ High Plains Community  
G & BBB @ St. Pat's

### 11 SUN



### 12 MON

10AM - Free Groceries @ GGC  
6PM - Cozad Community Leaders Monthly Meeting  
6:30 PM - Boy Scouts Pack Meeting @ Cozad Church of Christ

### 13 TUES



### 14 WED

10AM - Free Groceries @ GGC



# Medical Minute sponsored by CozadCommunity HEALTH SYSTEM

## The Holiday Spirit Matters But So Does What Happens After

### FAMILY FEATURES

During the holiday season, many people feel a renewed sense of generosity. It's a time when communities come alive with food drives, toy collections, volunteer events and donation campaigns – all fueled by the spirit of giving.

While this seasonal energy can be powerful, the need it responds to doesn't fade when the decorations come down. Giving back is not only essential during the holidays; it's also the foundation of stronger, more resilient communities year round.

People in nearly every community face challenges – whether it's affording holiday presents or meeting basic needs like food, rent and utilities. For many families, current economic strains are forcing them to make tough decisions like sacrificing necessities or depleting savings to create moments of holiday joy.

This is a time to rally support and help neighbors in need. Right now, many community members who didn't previously need help are

seeking support. Acts of generosity large and small help close gaps and strengthen communities. When individuals and businesses give their time, resources and talent, they can help ensure everyone has a fair chance to not only survive but thrive.

This holiday season and beyond, to assist your community consider taking actions such as:

#### Volunteering

Offering your time is one way to make a real change in your community while helping build a more resilient future for all. What's more, research shows the personal benefits of volunteering, such as reduced feelings of isolation, loneliness and risk of depression. Whether it's a community event, ongoing support or in-person activities, making a difference for others feels good.

#### Donating

Sharing your financial resources can play a vital role in helping communities thrive. Your donation can help put food on the table for families in

need, support kids who are struggling or provide mental health services to the most vulnerable individuals. Remember, your gift of any size combines with the gifts of others and builds stronger, more resilient communities.

#### Sharing Expertise or Talent

Generosity can take many forms. Making a difference isn't just about time and money; it can also mean sharing skills or knowledge, and even social networks to bolster charitable efforts. Giving back builds a shared sense of responsibility. It reminds people that strong communities don't

happen by accident – they're created through connection, compassion and collective action.

#### Supporting Causes You Believe In

Every community faces their own unique, pressing challenges and almost everyone has a cause that's close to their hearts. Identify organizations working to advance those causes and make a plan to support them.

Find opportunities to support your community this holiday season and make generosity a year-round tradition.

**SOURCE: United Way**

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APRN-FNP-C



Julie Rupe  
RN



Julia Myer  
RN

# AGRICULTURE



## Pesticide Applicator Certification Training Available for 2026

JOSH VILLAZANA AND GREG PUCKETT, UNK EXTENSION EDUCATOR AND ASSISTANT, LIZ ROMERO

Cozad-area producers, ag retailers and public employees who apply pesticides should begin planning now for 2026 certification and recertification needs.

Local applicators often take advantage of in-person training opportunities offered within the south-central Nebraska region, which allow participants to complete requirements without extensive travel. These sessions also provide a chance to ask questions specific to local crops, weather patterns and application practices common in the Cozad area.

Producers who apply pesticides only to land they own or rent should confirm whether a private applicator license meets their needs, especially if fumigation

or aerial application is involved. Custom applicators, lawn care operators and others applying products for hire will need to maintain commercial licensing and category endorsements.

Applicators are encouraged to check license expiration dates early, especially those expiring in 2026, to avoid delays during the busy spring season. Completing training or exams ahead of planting helps ensure uninterrupted application work when conditions are right.

For local assistance, Cozad-area applicators may contact Nebraska Extension staff serving Dawson County for guidance on training options, scheduling and licensing requirements.

Nebraska Extension will offer multiple pesticide applicator certification and recertification options across the state in 2026, with both in-person and online formats available. These programs serve private, commercial and non-commercial applicators seeking either first-time certification or renewal of an existing license.

Applicators can choose face-to-face instruction with extension educators or complete training from home through approved online programs. Nebraska Extension continues to provide flexible options to meet the needs of agricultural producers, businesses and public agencies.

In Nebraska, a pesticide applicator license is required for anyone who applies restricted-use pesticides for any purpose. A license is also required for those who apply any pesticide commercially for lawn or ornamental plant care or structural pest control. In addition, anyone applying pesticides for outdoor vector control, such as mosquito management, on behalf of a state or local government agency must be licensed.

Licensing requirements vary depending on how and where pesticides are applied. Applicators who are unsure which license they need or whether their current license expires in 2026 should verify their status before the end of the year.



### Cozad Grand Generation Center

#### Weekly MENU

- Thur., 1/8 Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Beets, Pistachio Salad, Peaches, Ice Cream
- Fri., 1/9 Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Pineapple
- Mon., 1/12 Potato Soup, Ham Salad Sandwich, Pears, Veggie Sticks, Fruit Bars
- Tues., 1/13 Porcupine Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Jello Fruit Salad, Ice Cream
- Wed., 1/14 Tuna Casserole, Peas, Fruit Cocktail, Ice Cream

This weeks calendar is sponsored by:

**COZAD LOCAL**

201 W. 8th Street, Cozad  
308-784-4747  
cozadlocal.com

### Lexington Grand Generation Center

#### WEEKLY MENU

- Thur., 1/8 Chicken Drummies, Candied Yams, Buttered Broccoli, Pears
- Fri., 1/9 Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit, Dinner Roll, Dessert
- Mon., 1/12 Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheese Cubes, Pickled Beets, Potato Salad, Apple Slices
- Tues., 1/13 Sloppy Joes, Fries, Baked Beets, Tropical Fruit
- Wed., 1/14 Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas, Apricots

This weeks calendar is sponsored by:

**COZAD LOCAL**

201 W. 8th Street, Cozad  
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### MARKET REPORT

#### For the Week Ending Jan. 2, 2025

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices,  
Central Region

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN: \$3.82-4.10  
US NO 1 SOYBEANS: \$9.31-9.46



#### Livestock Weighted Average Report for Jan. 5, 2025

**STEERS** - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)  
Wt. Range - 801-839; Avg Wt - 821; Price Range - \$358.00-369.25; Avg Price - \$363.48

**HEIFERS** - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)  
Wt. Range - 702-741; Avg Wt - 729; Price Range - \$348.00-361.00; Avg Price - \$354.39

# Legals

## Notice

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF FOR THE RECORD, LLC

Notice is hereby given that FOR THE RECORD, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office at 42396 Rd. 761, Cozad, NE 69130. Its registered agent is CNRA, LLC at 121 E. 8th Street, PO Box 229, Cozad, NE 69130.

Hart, Huyser & Miller,  
P.C., L.L.O.

Attorneys at Law

Jan. 8, 2026  
Jan. 15, 2026  
Jan. 22, 2026  
(17) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF MEETING WILSON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Wilson Public Library Board of the City of Cozad, Nebraska, will be held at 12 p.m., on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Wilson Public Library, which meeting will be open to the public. The Wilson Public Library Board reserves the right to adjourn into executive session as per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. An agenda for such meeting kept continually current is available for public inspection at the Wilson Public Library during normal business hours.

Laurie Yocom

Wilson Public Library Director  
Jan. 8, 2026  
(15) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF THE CHARITABLE FUND OF COZAD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Charitable Fund of Cozad members will be held at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 15th at the Wilson Human

Services with the meeting open to the public.

Pam Reicks  
Executive Director  
Charitable Fund of Cozad  
Jan. 1, 2026  
Jan. 8, 2026  
(15) znez

## Notice

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed BIDS will be received at the Engineer's Office, Miller & Associates, 1111 Central Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska on January 29th, 2026, until 2:30 PM, Local Time, and then such BIDS shall be publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room for furnishing all equipment, labor, materials and appurtenances required to construct approximately 1,700 L.F. of 8" PVC Water Main, service lines, valves, fittings and other such work as may be incidental to 12TH STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT, COZAD. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids; and to waive irregularities or informalities to accept the BID it deems most beneficial. Bids received after the specified time of closing will be returned unopened. The Contract Documents may be examined at the Engineer's office. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C. located at 1111 Central Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68847, Telephone 308/234-6456 upon payment of \$50 for each half-size set. A complete set of electronic copies of drawings, specifications, contract documents and proposal form may be obtained from [www.miller-engineers.com](http://www.miller-engineers.com) for a fee of \$30 (non-refundable). Once logged into the website, go to "Bidding Documents" [in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage] and you can select the set of documents to download. Each BIDDER will be required to submit

with his proposal, a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond made payable, without condition, to the City Clerk, City of Cozad, Nebraska, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the proposal. Contractors and subcontractors on USEPA federally assisted construction projects are required to pay their laborers and mechanics wages not less than those established by the U.S. Department of Labor. A current wage decision containing the appropriate building and/or heavy type rates is included in the specifications for bidding purposes. The prospective participants must certify by submittal EPA Form 5700-49, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency. BIDDERS on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246. Requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications. Each BIDDER must fully comply with the requirements, terms and conditions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements, including the fair share objectives for disadvantaged business participation during the performance of this contract. The bidder commits itself to the fair share objective for disadvantaged business participation contained herein and all other requirements, terms and conditions of these bid conditions by submitting properly signed bid. On January 17, 2014, H.R. 3547, "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014,"

was enacted. Section 436 of the Act requires that none of the appropriated funds may be used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States, unless a waiver is provided to the recipient by EPA. Conditions for the waiver are found under the Information for Bidders. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials. The Owner is an equal opportunity employer and requires all contractors and consultants to comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. The Owner, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bid-

ders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, sex, age and disability/handicap in consideration for an award.

(SEAL)  
CITY OF COZAD  
(OWNER)  
ATTEST:  
City Clerk  
Mayor

Jan. 1, 2026  
Jan. 8, 2026  
(175) znez

school's office during normal business hours.

Dr. Dan Endorf,  
Superintendent  
Cozad Community  
School District No. 11

Jan. 1, 2026  
Jan. 8, 2026  
(27) znez

## Notice

### COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEXINGTON, NE DECEMBER 31, 2025

The Dawson County Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, Nebraska, met in regular session on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 in the Commissioners' Room, 2nd Floor, Lexington, Nebraska, immediately following the Board of Equalization meeting. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Lexington Clipper-Herald. A copy of the Proof of Publication is on file in the office of the County Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the published notice and in the notice to members of the Board of County Commissioners of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. County Clerk, Michaela Arndt called the roll with Commissioners PJ Jacobson, Bill Stewart, Rod Reyn-

## Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING COZAD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

DAWSON COUNTY NEBRASKA  
Monday, January 12, 2026, 7:00 PM  
Notice is hereby given that a Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Cozad Board of Education, District 11 of Dawson County, Nebraska will be held Monday, January 12, 2026, 7:00 PM, at the Office of the Superintendent, 1710 Meridian Avenue, Cozad, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, which shall be kept continually current, is available for public inspection at the superintendent of



315 East 7th Street  
Cozad, NE 69130

308-784-3477

# Legals

olds, Joe Richeson and Chairman Kevin Swanson present. Chairman Swanson announced the current open meetings act was posted for the public and the location of the poster. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting as presented. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Receipts as submitted. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Treasurer's Receipts: \$629,831.03. Motion was made and seconded to approve the claims as presented. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Total Claims: \$1,502,997.14. GENERAL VENDOR CLAIMS: Advance Auto Parts; Parts; \$12.28. Axon; Education; \$2,395.00. Benchmark; Training Meals; \$490.75. Berreckman & Bazata; Legal Services; \$1,811.50. Blue360 Media; Publications; \$215.90. Capital City Transfer; Services; \$1,159.20. CEIA USA; Equipment Repair; \$1,702.26. CenturyLink; Monthly Services; \$976.00. Clerk of Dis-

trict Court; Fees; \$868.00. Column Software; Publications; \$8.80. Community Action Partnership; Expenses; \$850.87. Cornhusker State Industries; Furniture; \$4,995.00. Country Partners Cooperative; Fuel; \$7,104.47. Courtyard by Marriott; Lodging; \$1,814.40. Davis Law; Legal Services; \$4,969.50. Dawson County Sheriff Petty Cash; Postage; \$20.60. Dawson County Treasurer; Transfer; \$89,000.00. Diamond Drugs; Medications; \$2,083.56. Jason Dillard; MH Hearing; \$125.00. Eakes; Contract Copies; \$179.36. FBI-Leeda; Education; \$3,180.00. Raiza Garcia Rodriguez; Witness Fees; \$20.00. Great Plains Communications; Internet; \$729.95. Kenneth R Harbison; Expenses; \$3,000.00. Hart, Huyser & Miller; Legal Services; \$1,049.50. HD Supply; Supplies; \$266.03. Heldt, McKeone & Copley; Legal Services; \$3,656.25. Hiebner Counseling; Services; \$374.66. Holiday Inn Express; Lodging; \$220.00. Hometown Leasing; Equipment Leases; \$1,161.73. Ideal

Linen & Uniform; Services; \$182.12. Jack's Uniform & Equipment; Uniforms; \$136.39. Jack's Welding; Repair Materials; \$3,068.34. Ricardo Jiminez; Witness Fees; \$20.00. JK Trainer; Medical; \$164.00. Elizabeth AZ Jorgenson; Legal Services; \$5,547.91. Audrey A Kingston; Legal Services; \$720.77. Lexington Chamber of Commerce; Membership; \$275.00. Lexington Regional Health Center; Medical; \$4,332.61. Lexington Utilities System; Utilities; \$8,348.08. Malcom, Nelsen & Windrum; Legal Services; \$1,992.50. Michael Mandelko DDS; Dental; \$69.00. MIPS INC; Jury List; \$699.33. Derek L Mitchell; Legal Services; \$2,956.25. Motorola Solutions; Equipment; \$4,563.72. Nebraska Health and Human Services; Monthly Services; \$390.00. Nebraska Law Enforcement; Training Fees; \$142.00. Ness County Sheriff's Office; Inmate Housing; \$525.00. NTTA; Fees; \$47.60. O'Reilly Automotive; Supplies; \$17.96. Eduardo Paz Pino; Witness Fees; \$20.00. Platte Valley Glass & Trailers; Glass; \$38.50. Prompt Serve Solutions; Service Fees; \$706.80. Psychological Resources; Evaluation; \$450.00. Radiology Associates; Medical; \$60.03. Reynolds Love Funeral Homes; Service Call; \$300.00. Rebecca A Schroeder PHD; Evaluations; \$1,750.00. Secretary of State; Supplies; \$40.00. See the Trainer; Medical; \$302.00. Sign Pro; Custom Lettering; \$725.00. Heather Smith; MH Hearing; \$60.00. State of NE-Admin Services; Monthly Fees; \$196.00. Stryker Sales; Supplies; \$1,064.25. Summit Food; Meals; \$12,631.08. Syndicate Publishing; Publications; \$176.69. Teds Truck & Auto; Repairs; \$80.87. Thomas & Thomas Court Reporters; Deposition; \$61.60. TL Sund Constructors; Remodel; \$23,022.45. US Bank; Quickbooks; Supplies; \$14,025.62. Verizon; Monthly Service;

\$13.94. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Equipment; \$430.79. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Fuel, Meals; \$121.74. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Lodging, Fuel, Supplies; \$1,458.25. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Supplies; \$56.69. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Equipment, Supplies; \$1,200.75. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Fuel; \$89.95. VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Equipment; \$127.23. W Design Associates; Architectural Services; \$7,288.37. Wellness Partners; PCC; \$270.00. Western Detention; Supplies; \$1,179.00. Ann Young; Medical Management; \$2,000.00. 911 Custom; Equipment; \$15,393.00. TOTAL: \$253,979.75. ROAD VENDOR CLAIMS: Aussie Hydraulics; Repairs; \$373.03. Barco Municipal Products; Equipment; \$1,996.30. Black Hills Energy; Utilities; \$126.70. Bomgaars; Supplies; \$1,379.88. City of Gothenburg; Utilities; \$228.51. Clear Live; Monthly Services; \$19.02. Country Partners Cooperative; Fuel; \$32,260.22. Cozad Auto Supply; Supplies; \$76.81. Dawson Public Power; Utilities; \$344.91. DXP Enterprises; Equipment; \$125.35. Eustis Plumbing; Repairs; \$95.00. Fitzgerald's; Supplies; \$107.64. Frontier; Monthly Services; \$130.85. Gothenburg Tire Service; Repairs; \$155.00. Inland Truck Parts; Equipment Repair; \$1,378.55. J & A Traffic Products; Equipment; \$350.00. JB Tools; Equipment Parts; \$858.87. John Deere Financial; Equipment Parts; \$375.64. Lexington Utilities System; Utilities; \$453.24. Matheson Tri-Gas; Supplies; \$46.55. Miller Tire; Tires; \$1,200.00. NMC Exchange; Shop Tools; \$215.04. NSG Logistics; Gravel; \$2,058.70. O'Reilly Automotive; Parts; \$115.86. Overton Sand & Gravel; Gravel; \$263.00. Paulsen Inc.; Gravel; \$113.40. Power Plan; Equipment Supplies; \$11,294.40. S & W Auto Parts; Supplies; \$447.71. Sign Pro; Plaque; \$35.00. Titan Machinery; Repair Parts; \$1,303.64. Village of Eddyville; Utilities;

\$75.00. TOTAL: \$58,003.82. COUNTY INS VENDOR CLAIMS: Pinnacle Bank; Petty Cash; \$59,418.65. TOTAL: \$59,418.65. CASA VENDOR CLAIMS: US Bank; Promotional Items; \$361.09. TOTAL: \$361.09. COUNTY DRUG VENDOR CLAIMS: Aglite Systems; Equipment; \$12,914.05. City of Gothenburg; Equipment; \$2,600.00. TOTAL: \$15,514.05. MID-NE DRUG COURT VENDOR CLAIMS: Hazelden Publishing; Supplies; \$213.98. Jennifer Howerter; Expenses; \$30.00. TOTAL: \$243.98. SHERIFF GRANTS VENDOR CLAIMS: Cozad Veterinary Clinic; Services; \$50.00. Eastside Animal Center; Supplies; \$152.34. Ray Allen Mfg.; Supplies; \$1,293.88. TOTAL: \$1,496.22. E-911 VENDOR CLAIMS: Great Plains Communications; Monthly Services; \$383.46. TOTAL: \$383.46. 911 ENH WIRELESS VENDOR CLAIMS: APCO International; Software; \$18,075.83. TOTAL: \$18,075.83. DISPATCH VENDOR CLAIMS: VISA-Pinnacle Bank; Supplies; \$244.48. TOTAL: \$244.48. CED BUILDING VENDOR CLAIMS: Great Plains Communications; Internet; \$520.00. HD Supply; Supplies; \$223.26. TOTAL: \$743.26. NOXIOUS WEED VENDOR CLAIMS: Bomgaars; Supplies; \$37.99. Country Partners Cooperative; Fuel; \$124.46. Lexington Utilities System; Utilities; \$98.71. Nebraska Weed Control Assoc.; Conference; \$150.00. TOTAL: \$411.16. INVENTORY MAINT VENDOR CLAIMS: Charm-Tex; Commissary Supplies; \$238.40. Hobart; Equipment; \$1,150.76. Ideal Linen & Uniform; Monthly Services; \$287.50. Keefe Supply; Commissary Supplies; \$1,335.18. Plum Creek Market Place; Commissary Supplies; \$13.59. Spectrum; Monthly Services; \$311.24. TOTAL: \$3,336.67. GENERAL PAYROLL CLAIMS: General; Salaries; \$573,049.65. EFTPS; County Share FICA; \$52,617.54. Ameritas; County Share Retirement; \$50,179.53. Point C; Health Insurance; \$43,778.49. Dawson County; Health Insurance; \$137,728.54. Deductions; Misc.; \$2,063.82. CIL; Misc.; \$4,000.00. TOTAL: \$863,417.57. ROAD PAYROLL CLAIMS: Road; Salaries; \$134,380.19. Deductions; Misc.; \$100.00. CIL; General; \$3,500.00. TOTAL: \$130,980.19. COUNTY INSURANCE CLAIMS: Reimbursement; Fitness; \$316.38. TOTAL: \$316.38. CASA PAYROLL CLAIMS: CASA; Salaries; \$5,810.40. EFTPS; County Share FICA; \$429.67. Ameritas; County Share Retirement; \$358.45. Dawson County; Insurance; \$1.34. CIL; General; \$500.00. TOTAL: \$6,099.86. DISPATCH PAYROLL CLAIMS: Communications; Salaries; \$54,033.91. EFTPS; County Share FICA; \$3,831.15. Ameritas; County Share Retirement; \$3,647.30. Dawson County; Insurance; \$20,060.75. TOTAL: \$81,573.11. NOXIOUS WEED PAYROLL CLAIMS: Noxious Weed; Salaries; \$8,377.61. Deductions; Misc.; \$20.00. TOTAL: \$8,397.61. Citizen's comments: Committee Reports: Courthouse Remodel update: Brian Woldt, Emergency Manager gave update. 4th Quarter PTO reports were presented. Mark Christiansen, Highway Superintendent presented tractor bids from Kearney Equipment in the amounts of \$259,400.00 and \$283,582.00 for two tractors and from LandMark in the amount of \$288,470.16 and \$308,176.16 for two tractors. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Kearney Equipment bid in the total amount of \$259,400.00 for two Massey Ferguson: MF55.135 tractors. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Tucker Case of the sheriff's office indicated that a proposed contract will be coming soon with respect to jail medical. No further action taken. Motion was made and seconded to authorize Chairman Swanson to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the

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# Legals

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Kennon Meyer, attorney for Central Platte NRD presented applications, amended conservation easements and resolutions. Motion was made and seconded to approve the following Conservation Easement Applications and Resolutions as presented: Resolution 2025-49 for amended Conservation Easement for Buell, LLC; Resolution 2025-50 for amended Conservation Easement for BAR MR, LLC; Resolution 2025-51 for amended Conservation Easement for Darco, Inc.; Resolution 2025-52 for amended Conservation Easement for Darco, Inc.; Resolution 2025-53 for amended Conservation Easement for JWC GBurg, LLC; Resolution 2025-54 for amended Conservation Easement for Mike and Virginia Slaughter; Resolution 2025-55 for amended Conservation Easement for Jamey and Claudine Kennicutt, and Resolution 2025-56 for amended Conservation Easement for Norman and Colleen Geiken. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. At 9:14 a.m. Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing regarding Conditional Use Permit filed by Pitts, LLC to allow for a mining and excavation operation in the S½ of Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 19 West of the 6th PM, Dawson County, NE. Mark Christiansen, Zoning Administrator spoke. At 9:15 a.m. Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Conditional Use Permit filed by Pitts, LLC and approve Resolution 2025-57. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. At 9:15 a.m. Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing regarding Conditional Use Permit modification filed by David Kearney to allow for a one-year extension of temporary mining and excavation operation in the SW¼ of Section 26, Township 9 North,

Range 21 West of the 6th PM, Dawson County, NE. Mark Christiansen, Zoning Administrator spoke. Deb Sund and Tom Phillips both spoke in opposition. At 9:26 a.m. Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Conditional Use Permit modification filed by David Kearney through June 30, 2026 and approve Resolution 2025-58. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Mark Christiansen, Highway Superintendent presented quotes for one 2000lb pickup crane and one 3200lb pickup crane; one from LCL Truck in the total amount of \$27,230.00; one from Dakota Fluid in the total amount of \$26,541.00 and one from Matt Friend Truck in the total amount of \$38,000.00. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Dakota Fluid quote for one 2000lb pickup crane and one 3200lb pickup crane, in the total amount of \$26,541.00. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Commissioner Stewart discussed going to a 3% increase for 2028, 2029 and 2030 after the 2027 NACO recommended salary, rather than the 2.5% initially proposed for elected official salaries. Discussion was had. Motion was made and seconded to increase to 3%. Further discussion held and motion amended to increase to 3.5% per year after the 2027

year for 2028, 2029 and 2030 and seconded to increase to 3.5% per year for the years 2028, 2029, 2030. Resolution 2025-59 to be revised by the clerk to be approved on January 14, 2026 as Resolution 2026-04. Aye: 4. Nay: 1. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2025-60 for election compensation. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2025-61 for jail compensation. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded at 9:51 a.m. to go into executive session at the request of Chairman Swanson regarding personnel issues and to protect public interest. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to go out of executive session at 10:15 a.m. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. There was no discussion other than personnel issues. No action taken. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m. I, Michaela Arndt, County Clerk in and for Dawson County, hereby certify that all the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours prior to said meeting. That the

minutes of the County Commissioners of Dawson County, NE, from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all media requesting notification concerning the meeting of said body were provided advance notice of the time and place of said meeting and subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Michaela Arndt,  
Dawson County Clerk  
Kevin Swanson, Chairman  
Jan. 8, 2026  
(518) znez

## Notice

COUNTY COURTHOUSE,  
LEXINGTON, NE  
DECEMBER 31, 2025

The Dawson County Board of Equalization of Dawson County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 in the Commissioners' Room, 2nd Floor, Lexington, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Lexington Clipper-Herald. A copy of the Proof of Publication is on file in the office of the County Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the published notice and in the notice to members of the Board of County

Equalization of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. County Clerk, Michaela Arndt called the roll with Commissioners PJ Jacobson, Bill Stewart, Rod Reynolds, Joe Richeson and Chairman Kevin Swanson present. Chairman Swanson announced that the current open meetings act was posted for the public and the location of the poster. Motion was made and seconded to approve the December 15, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve the following Tax List Corrections: #4762 - Ricley, Logan Haynes - parcel #240077296. #4763 - Dodd, Joseph B - parcel #240213955. #4764 - Dodd, Joseph B - parcel #240213955. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m. I, Michaela Arndt, County Clerk in and for Dawson County, hereby certify that all the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours prior to said meeting.

Michaela Arndt,  
Dawson County Clerk  
Kevin Swanson, Chairman  
Jan. 8, 2026  
(85) znez

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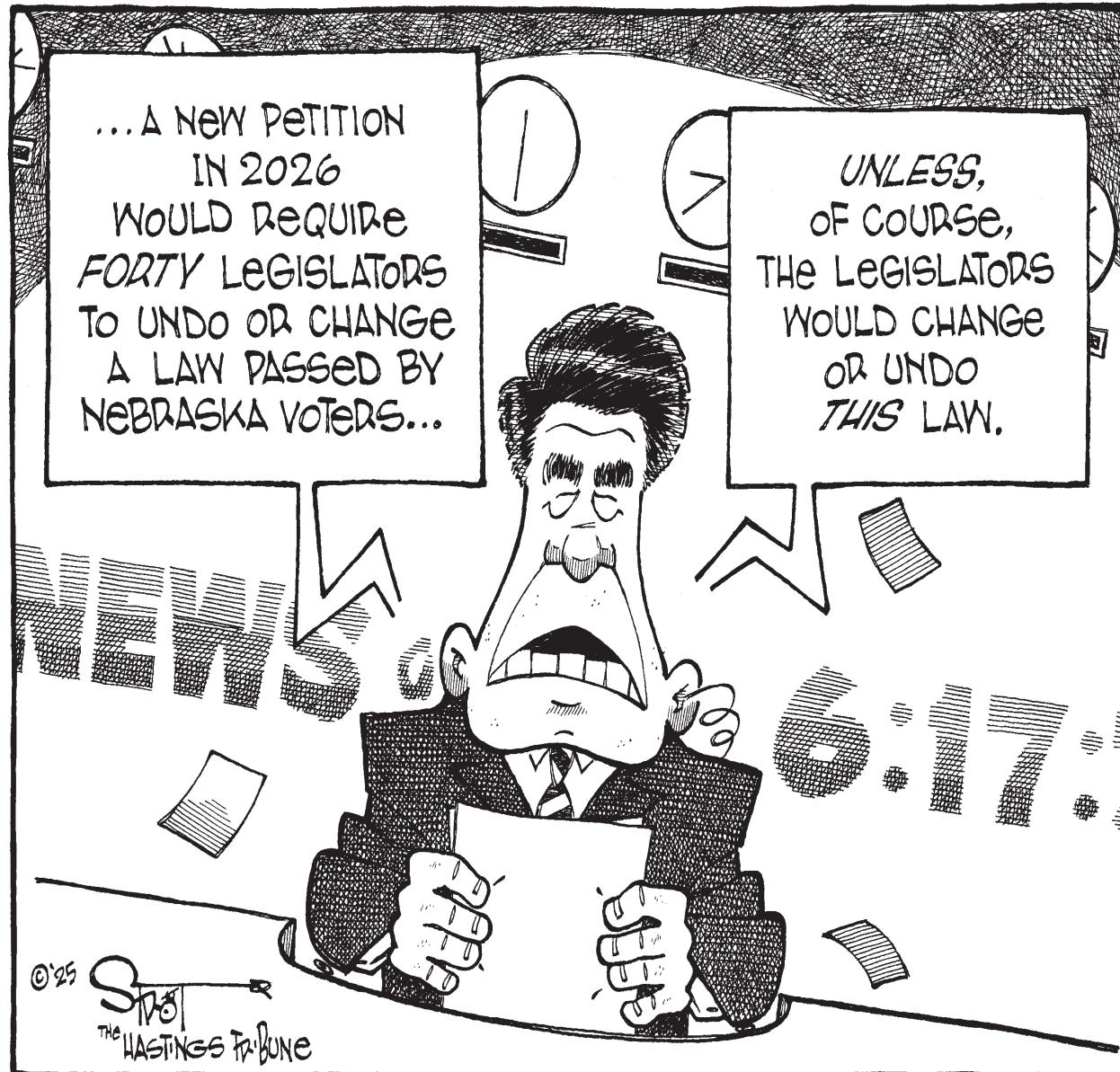
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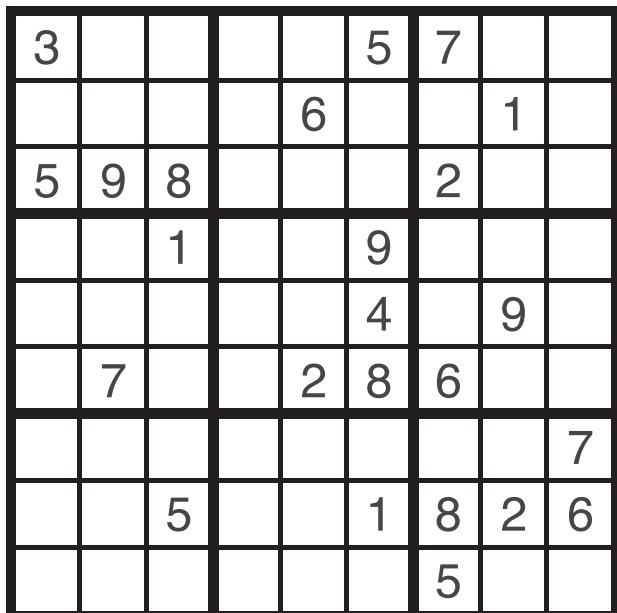
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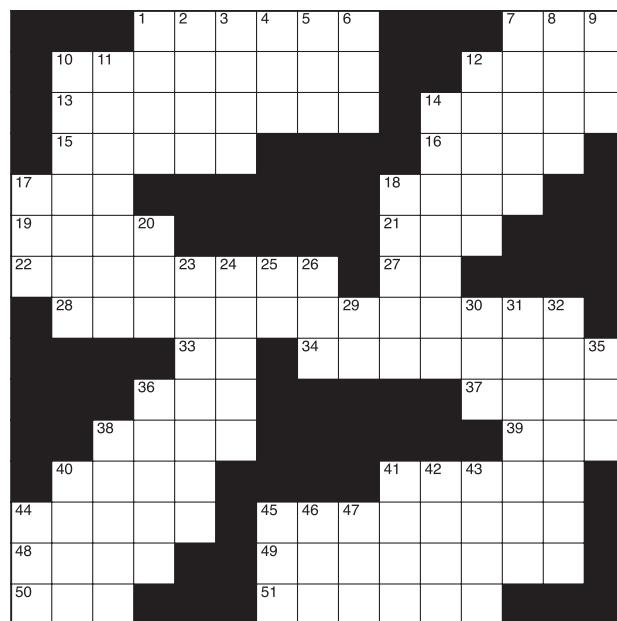
Got it - thanks! 

**COZAD LOCAL 308-784-4747**

# Game Page



**How many points did the 1969 Haymaker Football team allow against them?**



## CLUES ACROSS

- Mechanical lever
- Rocky peak
- Leave a country
- Discount
- D.C. ballplayer
- Partner to "oohed"
- Engine sound
- Japanese ornamental box
- Fido is one
- Amounts of time
- DiFranco and Phylo are two
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Make secret plans
- "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- "His Airness"
- Morning
- Perfected
- Winger guitarist Beach
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- A way to save money
- Pulpit
- Make ecstatically happy
- Once more

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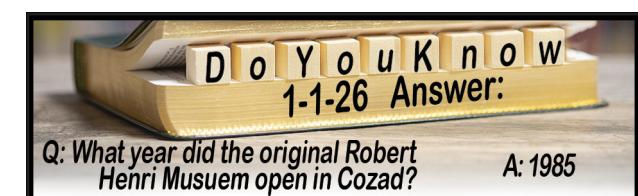
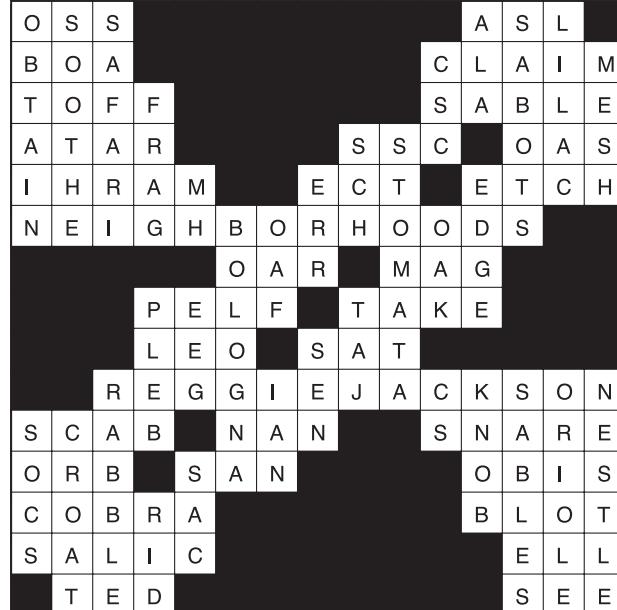
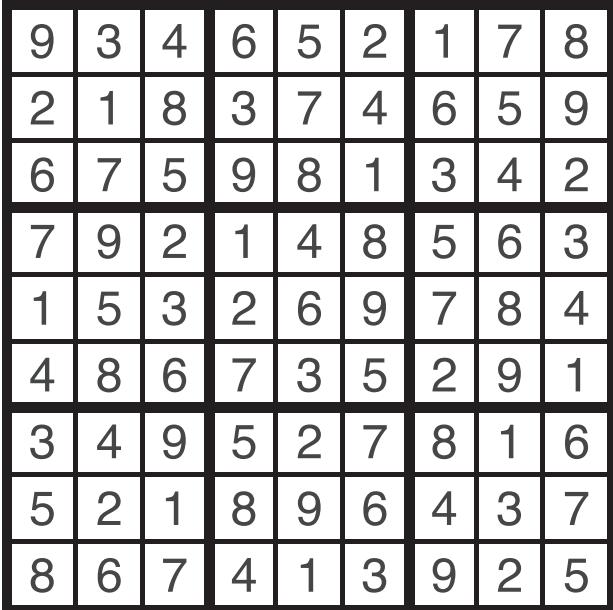
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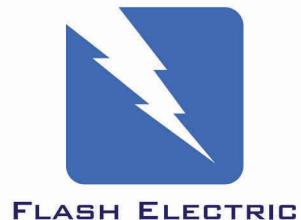
- Works on people or an era
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- State again
- Expression of disappointment
- Type of door

## CLUES DOWN

- Yugoslavian communist leader
- Exchange rate
- High school dance
- Peter's last name
- When you anticipate arriving
- Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- Goat-like mammals
- Margarine
- End-of-the-spectrum color
- Make poisonous
- Popular beverage
- Actress Lathan
- Inclined to
- Olfactory reference syndrome
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Body part
- Rapper Rule
- River in Scotland
- One who settles a dispute
- Most chummy
- We all have our own
- Arab tribe
- Slap
- Ottoman military commanders
- Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- Emit coherent radiation
- Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
- Political fundraising entity
- The distinctive spirit of a

## SOLUTIONS 01-01-2026





I D E F A M I L Y  
D E N T A L



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Law Enforcement Officers

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**SACRIFICE.**

**COMMITMENT.**

**A special thanks to our Cozad Police Department:**

<b>Nicholas Reynolds</b>	<b>Bradley Peltier</b>
<b>Tyler Earl</b>	<b>Kelly Pearson</b>
<b>Ariel Rose</b>	<b>Kyle Hansen</b>
<b>Kyle Carlson</b>	

As well as other area law enforcement officers!

