



New Year Brings Leadership Changes to CCS Board

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Elections for 2026 officers were the first item of business during the Cozad Community Schools Board of Education meeting on Monday, Jan. 12. Kiley Goff, who had served as the organization's president the past two years, stepped down due to an addition to her workload at Emerald Nursing and Rehab. Joel Carlson was unanimously elected as president for 2026. Michele Starman ran unopposed for vice president, as did Stacey Mundell for secretary. Other board members include Will Geiger, Kiley Goff, and John Peden.

Susan Kloepping was appointed as district treasurer, Perry Law Firm as the district's attorney, all three Cozad banks (Homestead Bank, Security First Bank, and Waypoint Bank) as district depositories, and the Cozad LOCAL as the district newspaper.

The seven board committees will remain the same for 2026-27, with the exception of the Wellness Center Board, as board member John Peden requested to be taken off of this assignment and will be replaced by a rotating board member to serve with Kiley Goff.

Board members adopted the 2026 Nebraska Association of School Boards board calendar and meeting schedule, appointed Dr. Dan Endorf as the district's representative for federal and state programs, and approved the appointment of Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Jeremy Yilk.

Dr. Endorf's superintendent's report included thanking Kiley Goff for her time and leadership as board president for the past two years. "She has been a guiding hand and a trusted confidant during my first two years," Dr. Endorf stated. He informed the board that total enrollment stands at 946 for the second semester compared to 947 for the first semester. Dr. Endorf shared positive comments about the Professional Development Day on Jan. 5 and said he addressed staff members about district



The Cozad Community Schools Board of Education reorganized for 2026 with the election of officers at their Monday, Jan. 12 meeting. Unanimous ballots were cast for front row, from left, Secretary Stacey Mundell, President Joel Carlson, and Vice President Michele Starman. Other board members are Will Geiger, Kiley Goff, and John Peden. (LOCAL Photo)

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Weather Forecast

Jan. 23: 11/-06	
Jan. 24: 19/-1	
Jan. 25: 38/14	
Jan. 26: 47/15	
Jan. 27: 40/12	
Jan. 28: 40/14	
Jan. 29: 42/21	



cont. PAGE 7 - Board

PAGE 8 - Who is Pawsome Pups?

PAGE 12 - High School Sports

Preaching What You Practice in All 10 States

In 10 days, I had been in 10 different states. When I look back on it now, that's usually when the regrets hit hardest. Not because I did any of it, I regret absolutely nothing about that, but because I didn't spread it out more. Apparently, I thought the best way to experience life was on fast-forward.

I was working one day on the drive, messed something up for the third time, and muttered to myself, "Liz, you are an idiot." From across the office on wheels, my sister snapped, "Don't talk about my sister that way."

Guys.

I didn't even realize I was being hard on myself until she pointed it out. We are allowed to mess up more than once and still learn something from every attempt. And I'm happy to report I drove, officially turning my chauffeur into a part-time passenger princess.

She was not good at it.

To be fair, I wasn't great either. I rode the rumble bars one too many times for her liking, but I did hit a big city, and she was wildly supportive, checking lanes, calling out exits, narrating traffic like a NASCAR spotter. She knows I don't like to drive; she was also probably a little terrified of how hard I 10-and-2'd the wheel, back straight, yelling at the semis to stay in their lane as I was trying to pass, telling drivers that they need to learn to drive in Nebraska because they were doing it wrong. If my husband had been with me, I doubt we would be on speaking terms a week later.

I did not take any wrong turns either. Unlike her.

She also took her princess duties very seriously by attempting to throw hot dogs at the guys' car as entertainment. She missed. Both times. I still don't know



Liz Romero

why we had hot dogs, but the birds probably ate well that day. I do know that I laughed so hard during this charade that I peed my pants. Apparently, multitasking is not my gift.

She has a lead foot like our mother and went a solid 10 miles per hour over the speed limit all the way to Mississippi and back. Halfway through Kansas, the cherries finally lit up behind us. That's also when we realized she forgot to wear deodorant, and we all paid dearly for that choice.

Anywho. She pulled over, and we waited. Then, completely uncontrollably, a few very colorful words flew out of my mouth as the officer appeared at my window. Which, in hindsight, tracks. She was let off with a warning. I did ask for a sheriff sticker, but apparently, those are no longer a thing, which feels like a real loss for society.

From the movie-theater back seat, my niece piped up and declared it a great day for all of us. "Mom got off with a warning, and I got to send that to all my friends." She was named after me for a reason. Just saying. A week later, our husbands are still talking about it.

We were home just long enough to wash all the clothes, shove them back into suitcases, and head to Arizona. I still have a million questions about why

my son got sick and why we had, and continue, to go through all the things. But when I tell you God knew exactly what He was doing, I wish I had the time to explain how coincidences turned into signs over and over again.

One of those signs is our friends in Arizona. Both doctors. John matched into his residency in Phoenix, and Ashton finished hers in Denver. In her last month, she was placed in the children's rehab wing, the same day my son was moved there. Ashton is a redhead, so feel free to imagine that personality however you'd like.

We all hit it off, but especially her and my son. Her last day of residency was two days after my kid was released. She asked if we wanted to have lunch the next time we were in town. That turned into many lunches, then she moved to Arizona to be with her husband, who still has two years left.

My kid's doctor became one of my best friends. Her husband asked zero questions. We just got home from our annual (OK, two-year-old) trip to see them. My husband lost at putt-putt golf, a feat that Ashton will never let him forget. We played games. Mostly, we just relaxed together, and that alone felt like a luxury.

Coming home to the chaos of work, mom-ing, dogs, and wife-ing, only to play catch-up, is absolutely worth 11 days of madness.

I know I am preaching what I practice, even when I mess it up, even when it's messy, even when my anxiety wins for a day, even when I'm tired. I try again. Are you?

In the madness, keep going. You can be hard on yourself, laugh at yourself, fall apart a little, and still be doing it right. Give yourself the grace we all forget about. Try to treat yourself like you treat a loved one.

Next week might be about how my suitcase is still sitting on my floor. Stick around, and we will find out together. Just stick around. I want you here.

A too-hard-on-herself friend, Liz

P.S. continue to the letter to the editor. Apparently, my sister thought she needed to share her side of the story.

LOCAL Weekly Deadlines:

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Content

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Friday at 4:00 pm

Legals

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Friday at 4:00 pm

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COZAD LOCAL

Liz Romero
Editor and Office Manager
liz@syndicatepub.com

Kelly Aden
Business Manager
kelly@syndicatepub.com

cozadlocal.com

phone:
308 784 4747

address:
201 West 8th
Cozad NE 69130

Letters to the Editor

Letters must be signed and contain writer's contact information for verification. Phone numbers are not published. Letters may be sent via email.

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Letter to the Editor For The Record

Hi everyone!!! It's me, the "my sister," aka Cerina. Did you know that anyone can write a letter to the editor and she always publish it, for free? Well, apparently you can, so I'd like to officially welcome you to my new periodic column. We'll call it "For the Record" (assuming that name isn't already taken). Bear with me though, I am definitely not the writer out of the 2 of us. I'll craft just about anything; she can keep the writing.

Now, don't let her fool you; she did great at driving. In her one hour of driving out of the 36-total road time, other than the rumble bars and peeing her pants, she was fantastic... though afterward she was exhausted and definitely needed a coffee. I may have taken a wrong turn, but if not then we wouldn't be able to say that we saw what my daughter referred to as "the twin towers"; they may have just been smoke-stacks, but a memory none the less.

After a stop at a green light to collect myself, we were off and back on track. Yes, it's true, I was pulled over, and it's also true that we both inherited our speeding skills from our mother. In fact, I called her immediately afterward because I knew she'd be proud, and she was. And we made it home at exactly the time our GPS said we would, which did not include any time for stops or police interaction, so I'm taking it as a win.

You may know my sister as "Ozzie's wife," "Zie's mom," or maybe even "Liz," but to me, she's my sister. And let me tell you about the side of her she doesn't always talk about. She is the kindest, least judgmental

person I've ever met. Unless you're a semi in her way, that's a whole different story.

She's also the strongest person I know. She might not think so, but I do. Life got tough, and she's showing just how much tougher she is. She faces everything head on, and with a fierceness only someone who has truly been tested can have; she is just quiet about it.

She is an AMAZING mother, an incredible aunt, and a pretty great sister and friend too. She is the person I call when I have good news and want someone to be excited for me, when I need to vent, when I'm bored,

or really just anytime. Now she may not answer... most of the time, I know that if I called again she would (two calls in a row is the trick).

I do like to save that trick though since she practically has three full time jobs, Mom, Caregiver, and Newspaper lady. Well that's all I have for now, so until next time. Stick around, I hear Liz has some pretty big things coming up, and I can't wait for you all to hear about it.

*She wants you here.
Cerina (Liz's sister)*

Lexington Grand Generation Center

WEEKLY MENU

Thur., 1/22	Orange Chicken, Wild Rice, Cauliflower, Cold Veggie Salad, Pears
Fri., 1/23	Potato Bar, Meat Sauce, Broccoli & Cheese, Apple Slices, Bread Stick, Dessert
Mon., 1/26	Cook's Choice, Casserole, Tomato Medley, Peas & Carrots, Tropical Fruit
Tues., 1/27	Creamy Mac & Cheese, Tater Tots, Corn, Peaches
Wed., 1/28	Pork Fritters with Gravy, Boiled Potatoes, Dilled Carrots, Apricots

This weeks calendar is sponsored by:

201 W. 8th Street, Cozad
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Cozad Grand Generation Center

Weekly MENU

Thur., 1/22	Hamburger Steak, Fried Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Pears, Ice Cream
Fri., 1/23	Sausage Gravy over Biscuits, Hot Fruit, Veggie Sticks, Scrambled Eggs, Cookies
Mon., 1/26	Swiss Steak, Carrots, Peaches, Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Tues., 1/27	Chicken Alfredo, Peas, Frog Eye Salad, Ice Cream
Wed., 1/28	Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Hominy, Pears, Ice Cream

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UPCOMING EVENTS: THURSDAY, JANUARY 22nd - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28th

22 THUR	23 FRI	24 SAT	25 SUN	26 MON	27 TUES	28 WED
G& BBB @ Lexington 4PM Movie Matinee @ WPL 	11AM - Storytime @ WPL CEEC No School GWR @ Lexington Mid Winter Dance	Speech @ Broken Bow BWR @ Lexington GWR @ Axtell		10AM Free Groceries @ GGC UNK Honor Music Clinic	G & BBB SWC - TBA	10AM Free Groceries @ GGC

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New Rules for Medicaid Expansion Adults

COZAD LOCAL

Starting May 1, nearly 70,000 Nebraskans who receive Medicaid through the state's expansion program will need to participate in work or other qualifying activities to keep their health coverage. Medicaid expansion covers adults who qualify because of Nebraska's program to provide health insurance to more low-income residents, usually adults without dependent children who meet certain income limits. Under the new rules, these adults will need to work, participate in approved work programs, do community service, or take part in educational activities for at least 80 hours per month, unless they qualify for an exemption. The goal is to help Nebraskans maintain steady employment and access the benefits of work while continuing to have health coverage.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is moving ahead as the first state in the nation to implement Medicaid work requirements, a

provision included in the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) Legislation. By acting months ahead of the federal deadline of Jan. 1, 2027, the state is providing more time for members to understand the new rules and prepare. DHHS has already started outreach, sending notices to affected members and publishing a dedicated work requirements web page with resources to guide Nebraskans through the process.

Earlier this week, staff from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) visited Nebraska for two days of meetings with DHHS to review guidance and ensure the state is ready for the May launch. CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz praised Nebraska's leadership, noting the collaboration as a model for other states.

"When the opportunity arose to help Nebraskans become more self-sufficient through Medicaid Work Requirements in the One Big Beautiful Bill, Governor Pillen's

direction was clear: he wanted it done yesterday," said DHHS CEO Steve Corsi.

Research suggests that work requirements can lead to higher and more stable incomes, greater access to employer benefits, and improved outcomes for children in working households. They are also linked to stronger workforce participation and a more robust local economy.

Drew Gonshorowski, Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, added, "These meetings with CMS have been extremely valuable in clarifying what Nebraska needs to do to implement these requirements responsibly and effectively. We're working closely with federal partners and stakeholders across the state throughout this process."

For more details on Nebraska's Medicaid work requirements, including exemptions and resources, visit DHHS Work Requirements.

Monthly Alzheimer's Support Group

You are not alone on this journey.



- Wednesday, January 28th
- 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- Meadowlark Pointe Chapel
2300 Ave O, Cozad
- Free respite care available on site
- For more information call
308-784-4100



CozadCommunity
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Emily Krolkowski, RN
Cardiac Rehab & Diabetic Education Nurse

AGRICULTURE



Cozad FFA Hosts New Jacket Ceremony, Annual Labor Auction

KRYSTLE RHOADES, CORRESPONDENT

The Cozad FFA Chapter welcomed students, families and community supporters on Monday, Jan. 12, for an evening celebrating tradition, leadership and support during its New Jacket Ceremony and annual Labor Auction.

The event began with a soup and sandwich meal hosted by the Cozad FFA Alumni and Supporters in the Cozad High School Commons. Following the meal, attendees moved to the auditorium where the Cozad FFA officer team officially opened the program with opening ceremonies.

A highlight of the evening was the New Jacket Ceremony, a meaningful tradition that symbolizes a member's commitment to the FFA organization. This year, six freshmen and one junior were presented with their official blue corduroy FFA jackets. Jackets were funded in part by the Cozad FFA Alumni and Supporters.

During the ceremony, each new member was assisted in zipping up their new jacket by an FFA mentor from the current officer team. Members receiving jackets included junior Dale Lankford and freshmen Baylee Eldridge, Rylee Nelsen, Matthew Rhoades, Mollie Spradlin, James Treacle and Braedon Wiese.

As highlighted in the FFA jacket ceremony, the jacket represents pride, responsibility and the opportunity to represent the organization with integrity both in and out of the classroom. Members are reminded that when wearing the jacket, they carry not only their chapter's name, but also the values of the FFA organization.

Following the ceremony, the Cozad FFA Chapter hosted its annual Labor Auction, a major fundraiser that provides financial support for member opportunities throughout the year. Proceeds from the auction help offset costs associated with attending the Nebraska State FFA Convention and leadership events such as the Washington Leadership Conference and the National FFA Convention.

Middle school and high school FFA members were auctioned off for eight hours of labor to the highest bidders. Prior to the event, members listed skills and tasks they could provide, ranging from babysitting and yard work to farm labor such as laying or picking up irrigation pipe. Levi Messersmith did the auctioneering for the organization's fundraiser.

A total of 31 middle school members were auctioned in



From left are James Treacle, Braedon Wiese, Matthew Rhoades, Rylee Nelsen and Mollie Spradlin who received their official blue jackets during the New Jacket Ceremony on Monday, Jan. 12. Dale Lankford and Baylee Eldridge were unable to attend the evening and will receive their jackets at a later date. (LOCAL Photo)

teams of two to three students, with team bids ranging from \$130 to \$490. High school members were auctioned individually, with 27 members selling for prices ranging from \$140 to \$750 each.

At the conclusion of the student portion of the auction, the Cozad FFA officer team, consisting of seven high school officers along with two teacher advisors, was auctioned as a group and brought in \$1,000.

The evening concluded with the auction of a toolbox for the Cozad FFA Alumni and Supporters. The toolbox was originally donated last year by Brian Jewett and raffled off in May, with Charlie Shoemaker winning the item. Shoemaker generously donated the toolbox back to be used again as a fundraiser. The toolbox sold Monday evening for \$2,050, closing the event on a high note.

Cozad FFA expressed appreciation for the continued support from families, alumni and community members, noting that the success of the event reflects the strong backing of agricultural education in the Cozad community.

Market Report

For the Week Ending Jan. 16, 2026

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices,
Omaha-Council Bluffs
US NO 2 YELLOW CORN: \$3.73-4.00
US NO 1 SOYBEANS: \$9.43-9.63



Livestock Weighted Average Report for Jan. 19, 2026

STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Wt. Range - 650-599; Avg Wt - 677; Price Range -
\$397.00-456.50; Avg Price - \$427.07

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Wt. Range - 650-698; Avg Wt - 670; Price Range -
\$365.00-414.00; Avg Price - \$388.21

DHHS Implements Safeguards to Prevent Fraud in Government Programs

COZAD LOCAL

While recent reports have highlighted allegations of widespread fraud in multiple public programs in Minnesota, Nebraska continues to demonstrate strong stewardship of taxpayer dollars through rigorous oversight, auditing, and enforcement measures that protect the integrity of state-administered programs.

Nebraska has implemented multiple layers of fiscal and programmatic controls designed to ensure that funds are spent appropriately; only eligible individuals receive services, and bad actors are identified and removed swiftly.

"Let me make it crystal clear, if you try to commit fraud and steal from Nebraska taxpayers, you will get caught, and you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," said Governor Jim Pillen.

Child Care and Development

Fund Fraud Prevention

DHHS Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program currently has safeguards in place to audit child-care claims to reduce fraud and waste of state and federal dollars. Measures include targeted reviews of calendars that support claims submitted by child care providers and on-site visits. Paid claims are reviewed to identify concerns. Identified claims are referred to an internal team who audits the claims and determines if there was an overpayment. More recently, DHHS enhanced its billing system to suspend claims, prior to payment, if multiple providers bill for the same child, an excessive number of hours, or overtime exceeds established threshold.

Providers may also be referred to the Special Investigation Unit if fraud is suspected. DHHS has dedicated positions for child care provider fraud investigations and audit reviews. Results of these

reviews can lead to provider probation, and possible termination from the child care subsidy program. If a client is found guilty of fraud, their ability to receive subsidy is suspended or prohibited.

DHHS is eager to work with federal partners to strengthen current practices to enhance the integrity of the state's child care program.

Nebraska's housing programs, administered through the Divisions of Behavioral Health (BH) and Public Health (PH), are subject to annual fiscal and programmatic audits of contracted agencies. These reviews ensure that documentation aligns with services delivered, invoices reflect legitimate expenses, and providers and recipients meet eligibility requirements.

BH further monitors cost trends, length of stay, and funding caps to prevent unreasonable expenditures. While PH conducts comprehensive annual financial reviews and fiscal risk assessments that may require additional documentation when risks are identified. Providers found out of compliance may face corrective action, contract termination, or legal referral.

Within the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC), Nebraska proactively addressed rising ABA costs by identifying irregular spending early, adjusting reimbursement rates, strengthening provider credential requirements, increasing the frequency of program integrity audits, and implementing rigorous authorization processes. MLTC works closely with the Attorney General's Office to investigate and act against fraudulent behavior.

Food Assistance Programs

Nebraska maintains robust safeguards in both food voucher and food hub programs.

Food vouchers administered through the Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) are limited to approved items, paid directly to verified grocery stores, and include security features that prevent duplication. Sub-recipients must submit paid invoices and expense documentation, which are audited regularly.

The Office of Economic Assistance (OEA) contracts directly with food hubs after verifying insurance, nonprofit status, executed agreements, and federal tax documentation. Risk assessments and monitoring plans are updated annually, and fiscal desk reviews of historical expenditures are conducted to identify waste or misuse.

"Safeguarding public resources is essential to helping people live better lives," said DHHS CEO Steve Corsi. "DHHS has built a culture of accountability that emphasizes prevention, early detection, and decisive

action when fraud arises."

Recent high-profile fraud cases in Minnesota highlight the importance of strong internal controls. Minnesota has faced allegations of widespread fraud in multiple programs, including a nonprofit food distribution initiative that continued to receive funding despite repeated complaints, a housing program that ballooned from an estimated \$2.6 million to more than \$100 million in two years due to inadequate controls, and an ABA program involving false claims and illegal kickbacks.

In contrast, Nebraska's systems are designed to identify irregularities early, limit financial exposure, and intervene before losses occur.

When unscrupulous providers or recipients are identified in Nebraska, DHHS acts quickly. Agreements are terminated when warranted, corrective action plans are imposed, and findings are promptly referred to the Office of the Attorney General following rigorous internal investigation.

Commitment to Accountability

Nebraska's approach reflects a long-standing commitment to fiscal responsibility and program integrity.

"In Nebraska, we ensure the legitimacy of our providers and the proper use of public funds," said Corsi. "Our multi-level auditing and monitoring protections help ensure citizens receive the right services, in the right amount, from the right organizations."

DHHS investigates allegations of potential fraud in programs including Medicaid, energy assistance, Assistance to the Aged, Blind and Disabled, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Social Service Block Grants and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs. To report fraud, please click here.

Medicaid provider fraud

To report suspected Medicaid provider fraud or possible abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of patients in Medicaid facilities, please click here.

Licensed, registered or certified healthcare professionals/occupations

DHHS is responsible for investigating complaints against professionals in healthcare professions and occupations. Please use the public complaint form to report concerns regarding a licensed or unlicensed health professional, or licensed business establishment.

To report fraud, waste, or abuse occurring in Nebraska government, call the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts' office Hotline at 1-800-842-8348 or visit https://auditors.nebraska.gov/SAE_E-Mail.html.



from FRONT - Board

test scores, finances, the possible effects of the Tyson plant closing, and the plan for handling teacher vacancies. Intent to Return forms are due by March 15 for staff members wishing to retire or leave the system. He also briefed the board on updated expenditures for the month and fiscal year.

Noteworthy committee reports included the Strategic Plan Committee, which met to learn about the Nebraska Literacy Project. This committee will meet again in February to learn more about Special Education and ESU contracts.

The Facilities Committee met to tour the bus barn, examine buses, and discuss potential vehicle maintenance needs. "The committee noted that there is no water hook-up for the bus barn or the practice field. The addition of a hook-up would make it easier to clean buses, vehicles, and other machinery, as well as water the practice field," Dr. Endorf explained.

Third-grade teacher Trevor Galas made a presentation to the board for the January Haymaker Highlight. Galas, a first-year teacher who was once a student of Elementary and CEEC Principal Justin Dowdy at Gothenburg, explained this year's High Ability Learner program at the elementary called "High Gear Haymakers." Students qualify based on their Fall IXL Diagnostic Score, with all students scoring in the 85th percentile or higher in a content area eligible. "The students meet one to two Mondays each month after school, focusing on STEAM-based projects designed to make kids think creatively and critically to solve problems. They work in teams to encourage collaborative learning," Galas explained. Fourth-grade teacher Kimberly Heimann and fifth-grade teacher Tess Poppert are also involved in the program.

Salary advancement applications were approved for Courtney Arends (6 hours), Woody Blackmore (3 hours), Brent Frauen (3 hours), Ethan Haaberger (24 hours), Tessa Throckmorton

(21 hours), Amber Ross (3 hours), and Courtney Hanson (3 hours).

Board members approved the resignation of middle school science teacher Dave Evertson at the end of the semester. The district will not replace Evertson's position, with other teachers taking over his current 7th and 8th grade science classes. Dr. Endorf and Goff thanked Evertson for his dedication during his "career and a half teaching" in the school system.

Activities Director and Assistant High School Principal Jeremy Yilk presented an update on participation numbers in winter activities, attendance figures for events hosted so far, and upcoming schedules.

Elementary Principal Justin Dowdy reported that three student teachers will be at the elementary during the second semester: Brynn Claycamp, UNK, from Edgar with Lisa Gengenbach; Emily Winter, UNK, from Lexington with Vickie Gilbert; and Chesney Bartlett, UNL, from Gothenburg with Kimberly Heimann. Dowdy also shared that his strategies in contacting parents prior to the start of the school year resulted in improved attendance numbers this year.

Cozad Middle School Principal Josh Asche announced that the next academic pep rally is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. on Jan. 30, that preparation for the annual spelling bee has begun, and that the quiz bowl team continues to practice and has begun competitions. He also noted that all students now participate in a new national program, the "Read Bowl," where they complete independent reading logs for four weeks. The "Middle School Matters" test prep with John Baylor will take place two or three times a week at the end of February during Academic Success. Asche explained the Pineapple Chart, which invites teachers to sign up and visit other classrooms while a volunteer covers their class. "The pineapple is a sign of welcome in Hawaii, and staff members will benefit from this concept," Asche stated.

Asche presented a proposed schedule change for CMS and CHS that would

add sections of core classes, help with SPED numbers in inclusion classes, support behavior needs, add sections of popular electives, and allow ag and shop classes to return to the middle school schedule. "The present seven 48-minute classes would be shortened by three minutes, resulting in eight 45-minute classes. Academic Success at the end of the day would be 21 minutes," Asche explained. "Mr. Fisher, our guidance counselors, and other staff members agree that this schedule offers more benefits. It allows us to add sections of various classes to meet our needs. No teacher would have a planning period at the end of the day, so all would be available during Academic Success, and the mentorship of 14 to 17 students per teacher would benefit students at the end of the day," Asche said. The principals' advisory councils from both schools collaborated to create a tentative bell schedule that accommodates this plan with the goal of using the school day more effectively for students.

CHS Principal Corey Fisher reported that the high school experienced a solid first semester, with 95 percent of students earning full credits. The goal remains 97 percent or higher, which the school achieved both semesters last year. "This acquisition level will not change," Fisher said. He noted that the lounge during Academic Success serves as a strong motivator for students to maintain good grades and that missing assignments have dropped considerably. Fisher invited board members to attend the annual Maker Fair on Feb. 2 and 3 and shared that third-quarter class assemblies are underway. "I'm really excited about the high number of dual credit courses now offered at CHS. These courses will factor into our school's AQuESTT rating moving forward," Fisher stated. He also congratulated the seven students who earned and received their diplomas during the mid-term graduation ceremony on Jan. 3.

Technology Director Patty Wolfe gave the board an overview of device planning for the 2026-27 school year

for students and staff, including student Chromebooks, staff computers, and iPads for elementary students. She explained that all devices follow a five-year life cycle and outlined which devices require replacement for the upcoming year. Wolfe also discussed the district's E-Rate funding, internal server updates, and camera system replacements. "These camera replacements are necessary to maintain campus safety and ensure continued functionality of the district's security system," Wolfe stated.

Board members approved paying dual credit teachers \$800 per credit hour for classes taught during the 2025-26 school year.

Following up on December's discussion regarding the district master calendar, Dr. Endorf presented Option B for the 2026-27 calendar. The board approved it with one edit, moving the early out to Sept. 30 instead of Oct. 7 to allow more preparation time for parent teacher conferences on Oct. 1.

Director of Teaching and Learning and Assistant EL and CEEC Principal Taylor Jenner informed the board that the School Improvement External Visit is scheduled for March 18 and 19. "Our early out agendas on Feb. 4 and 18 will consist of work time at each building to prepare for the visit," Jenner said. Dr. Endorf shared that he will participate as a member of the External Visitation Committee for Scottsbluff Public Schools and will share his experience upon return.

Board members approved the continuation of Cozad Community Wellness Center stipends for staff for the 2026-27 school year.

Stipends remain \$100 for full-time employees and \$50 for part-time employees. "This cost the district \$7,000 last year and shows a touch of class by our school system," Dr. Endorf stated.

Dr. Endorf will attend the Legislative Issues Conference in Lincoln on Jan. 24 and 25.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 16, beginning at 7 p.m. in the CCS District Office conference room.

Pawsome Pups Builds Confident Dogs for Capable Handlers

LIZ ROMERO

Trinity (Peltier) Ryker did not plan to start a dog training business while she was in high school. That changed when she trained her first service dog, Willow, a golden retriever gifted to her during her sophomore year. Through that experience, Ryker saw how a well-trained dog can improve daily life for someone with a disability. She also learned how expensive professional service dog programs can be, often ranging from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

That experience led Ryker to start Pawsome Pups in 2023, a dog training service focused on obedience, behavior, and service dog work, with an emphasis on accessibility and owner involvement.

Ryker holds a Dog Training and Instructor certification through the International Association of Canine Professionals. She works with dogs of all ages, from as young as nine weeks to end-of-life, and trains all breeds. Her work includes dogs with severe separation anxiety and littermate syndrome. While she offers a wide range of obedience and behavior training, she does not provide bite or protection training.

"My favorite type of training is service dog training because it's so rewarding after everything you put into a dog," Ryker said. "I love helping people, and I love seeing dogs fulfilled and cared for properly."

Pawsome Pups uses a balanced training method, which Ryker adapts to each dog and handler. She focuses on making training engaging and rewarding, using whatever motivates the dog most, whether that is treats, toys, play, or affection. Ryker believes dogs learn best when training stays positive, clear, and consistent.

"In order for a dog to succeed, they have to fail sometimes," she said. "I set dogs up for success through failure by showing them the wrong behavior, then teaching the correct one."



Trinity Ryker works with three dogs on patience and obedience, reinforcing sit and stay commands. (LOCAL Photos)

Owner involvement plays a central role in Ryker's approach. During in-home sessions, owners take part in every step of training so they can continue the work themselves. For board-and-train programs, owners remain involved in decisions about routines, praise, correction, feeding, walking, and training goals. Clients also receive regular updates, often including videos and photos, while their dogs stay with Ryker.

Ryker has trained 48 dogs in basic obedience and four service dogs. Her service dog experience includes

training cardiac alert dogs, a seizure response dog, and diabetic alert dogs, including her own.

"Service dogs are not pets," Ryker said. "They are lifesaving animals. They go through thousands of hours of training to remain neutral in almost any situation and to perform tasks that can mean life or death for their handlers."

Clients say Ryker's approach sets her apart.

Abby Twine, who worked with Ryker and her cardiac service dog Blossom, said the experience exceeded expectations. "I had a lot more fun and one-on-one time with Blossom than I thought I would," Twine said. "I would recommend Pawsome Pups to other owners, and I already have."

Sadie Wilson sought help with leash training for her dogs, Luna and Moose. "She didn't just put a prong collar on my dogs," Wilson said. "She actually worked with them and understood what they needed. After a couple of lessons, I could walk my dogs confidently."

June Howcroft, who trains her diabetic service dog Miracle, said working with Ryker helped restore confidence. "Talking to Pawsome Pups gave me the confidence I needed to keep going," Howcroft said. "She's always there when I need her."

Ryker continues to learn alongside each dog she trains, adjusting her methods based on how each animal processes its environment. That flexibility, combined with hands-on owner education, remains the foundation of Pawsome Pups.

"No two dogs are the same," Ryker said. "As they learn, I learn how to best help them succeed."

If you are interested in seeking guidance with your dog training or are in search of a service dog, you can contact Ryker at 308.320.8787, email pawsomepupstpeltier@outlook.com, or on Facebook at [pawsomepups.2024](https://www.facebook.com/pawsomepups.2024).

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Obituaries

Marcy Jean Slack, 63, passed away on Jan. 11, 2026, at Gothenburg Health in Gothenburg.

Marcy was born on March 12, 1962, in Gothenburg to Donald and Sue (Wickstrom) Ostergard. She attended school at Gothenburg, graduating with the class of 1980. Marcy married Kim Slack on Oct. 29, 1983, in Gothenburg, to this union; Karissa and Korbin were born.

Marcy was an avid walker, and loved watching sports, especially the Huskers. She cherished time at the lake, taking in every sunset. Above all, she was an incredible Grammy to her three grandchildren, who were the light of her world.

She was preceded in death by her father, Don Ostergard.

Survivors include her husband Kim of Gothenburg; her daughter, Karissa (Nate) Stack



and their children, Hallie, Colin, and Lauren of Lincoln; her son, Korbin Slack (Kristin Kennedy) and their children Mason and Jett of Gothenburg. Her mom, Sue Ostergard of Gothenburg, brothers, Mark (Marci) Ostergard of Gothenburg and Mike Ostergard of Gothenburg. Along with many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Visitation were held Friday, Jan. 16, at Blase-Strauser Memorial Chapel, 620 10th St. with the family present. A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 17, at the American Lutheran Church in Gothenburg. A burial followed at Gothenburg Cemetery in Gothenburg. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Gothenburg Volunteer Fire Department or the First Presbyterian Church. Online condolences can be made at www.blasestrauser.com.

Larry Lee Bodfield, 74 passed away peacefully Jan. 10, 2026, at home surrounded by family.

He was born on March 22, 1951, to Richard and Geraldine Bodfield in Gothenburg, where he also attended school. He married Mary Lucille Imler on March 26, 1971, to which four children were born, Rebecca, Angie, Michael, and Michelle. He was employed in numerous jobs over the year's most specializing in meat processing. He was an avid outdoors man including fishing, hunting and trapping. He passed on his lifelong learned knowledge to many over the years.

He is survived by his brother Joe (Mandy) Moore of Gothenburg. Chil-



dren, Rebecca (Terry) Scott of North Platte; Angie (Rodney) Mason of Hartwell, GA; Michael (Krista) Bodfield of Beaver City; and Michelle (David) Hauser of Raymond. As well as 16 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife Mary, father Richard Bodfield, Mother Geraldine (Bodfield) Moore, brother Richard (Butch) Bodfield, mother-in-law Anita Stickelman, and sister-in-law Alice Golter.

Graveside service will be held at Gothenburg Cemetery at a later date. Memorials can be made to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Marlene Ann Cawthra of Cozad passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, in Waverly, at the age of 89. Marlene was born on Dec. 15, 1936, in Denver, CO to Oscar O. and Helen M. (Schweddes) Oakley.

Marlene graduated from Benkelman High School with the class of 1955 and went on to attend McCook Beauty College, where she pursued her passion for cosmetology. For over 50 years, she proudly worked as a cosmetologist and was self-employed. She

continued to evolve in her craft by taking advanced classes in cosmetology, ensuring she remained current in her field. In addition to her work in beauty, Marlene served as a nurse's aid in Benkelman showcasing her caring nature.

In 2012, Marlene found joy in becoming a foster grandparent, further demonstrating her love for children and her community. She married Eldon Cawthra on Oct. 27, 1957, in a beautiful ceremony at the Old Baptist Church in Benkelman. Together, they were blessed with two children, who were a central part of her life. Marlene loved her family dearly and was always there to support and care for them. She also enjoyed square



dancing and was an active member of the Cozad-Gothenburg and Camping Dancers Square Dance Clubs, where she shared her love for dance with friends. Additionally, she enjoyed camping and fishing, making

memories with her loved ones in the great outdoors. Family meant everything to Marlene, a lesson she learned from her parents. To help instill this value in others, she taught Sunday school to third graders, sharing her love and wisdom

with the younger generation.

Throughout her life, Marlene was proud to be a member of various organizations, including the Dundy County and Dawson County Extension, the Methodist Church Ladies, the Cozad Art Club, and the North Platte Cosmetology Group. She also served as an assistant 4-H leader, further investing in the growth and development of her community's youth. These affiliations reflect her dedication to both her passions and her community.

Marlene will be remembered for her strong commitment to her family, her profession, and her community. Her warm spirit and loving nature will be missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Helen and Oscar Oakley; husband Eldon Cawthra and brother Robert Oakley. Survivors include her children, Deborah Vergara of Cozad and Martin (Heather) Cawthra of Beatrice; grandchildren, Elizabeth Fischer, Johnathan Johnston, Sabrina (Michael) Sauer, and Tristan Cawthra; great grandchildren, Robert, Samuel (Cheyenne), Morgan (Noah) and

Amber; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Memorials are suggested to the family for later designation. Online condolences may be shared at berrymanfuneralhome.com. A graveside memorial service was held Monday, Jan. 19, at Benkelman Cemetery. Visitation with family present was held on Sunday, Jan. 18 at Berryman Funeral Home.

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222 Hardware Expands from One Exit to the Next, 237 Hardware Coming Soon

LIZ ROMERO

Scott and Robyn Geiser, owners of 222 Hardware in downtown Cozad, are bringing their brand of friendly, locally focused service to Lexington with the purchase of the Bob's True Value location. The new store, renamed 237 Hardware, is located at 1601 Plum Creek Parkway and is currently undergoing a remodel in preparation for a mid-March opening.

With Cozad known for its interstate exit, reflected in the name 222 Hardware, it was only fitting that the Lexington location would also be named after its exit.

The new store's name, 237 Hardware, continues that familiar and meaningful tradition.

The opportunity to expand first came to the Geiser's more than a year ago, but the timing wasn't right. When the offer resurfaced, the couple knew it was meant to be. "We know the importance of having a local hardware store," said Robyn Geiser. "We had talked about expanding, but we weren't in a hurry. When the discussion came back up and things moved smoothly, we knew it was the right time."

As the Lexington location is prepared for opening, Scott has been splitting his time between both stores. "We talked to our 222 employees, and they were all extremely supportive," he said. "222 Hardware is in very capable hands while I'm running between the stores." The Geiser's credit their dedicated staff for making the expansion possible,



noting that strong leadership and teamwork at the Cozad location allow them to grow with confidence.

222 Hardware has long been more than a traditional hardware store. In addition to tools and paint, it offers home décor, YETI products, Ridge wallets, and select clothing items. Customers frequently comment on the welcoming atmosphere. "Walking in and being greeted by name is something special," one shopper shared. Another added, "If I need something specific that isn't in the store, Scott will do everything he can to get it."

"The process of turning Bob's True Value into 237 Hardware began before the Tyson closure was announced, but we aren't worried," Robyn said. "Supporting local is something we are passionate about, and we're excited for the Lexington community to continue that tradition."

The store will undergo a full remodel and restock, with plans to retain employees who wish to stay. A sale will also be held to clear out inventory the Geiser's do not plan to carry moving forward, such as furniture. "With the ever-changing styles of beds, chairs and couches, it's hard to keep the right inventory on hand, and we need the space for our core hardware items," Scott explained.

Officially closing on the ownership transfer on Dec. 31, 2025, the Geiser's are enthusiastic about this new chapter. "With 222 and 237 Hardware, we're expanding our welcoming, friendly atmosphere and hope to make both stores a staple in their communities," Robyn said.

For updates, follow the store on Facebook. You can contact 237 Hardware at (308) 324-9945 or 237hardware@gmail.com.

CHS Speech Team Garners 11 Medals at CNFL Meet

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

The Cozad High School speech team traveled to Grand Island for the first of two Central Nebraska Forensics League meets on Saturday, Jan. 17. There were 25 teams competing in this major area meet in the varsity and novice divisions.

In varsity competition, Crystal Hernandez received the 6th place medal in Persuasive Speaking.

Camryn Yilk captured the 7th place medal in Poetry with teammate Katelynn Williamson awarded the 15th place medal in the same category.

Yilk was a double medal winner for the day as she received a 4th place medal in Program of Oral Interpretation (POI).

Raiden Heuck rounded out the varsity medals; receiving the 13th place medal in Extemporaneous Speaking.

The novice team members had a memorable outing, led by Aiden Allbright's incredible 1st place finish in the Novice Humorous Prose category.

Rebecca Burns and Adeline Joyce teamed up to continue their win-

ning ways, capturing the 2nd place medal in Duet Acting. Teammates Reagan Chrisinger and Hayden Revelo were awarded the 6th place medal in the same category.

Jayden Wills received the 10th place medal in Entertainment Speaking.

The Haymaker speech team is coached by Head Coach Woody Blackmore and assisted by Yanira Rodriguez and Omar Carlos. The team will be competing in the Broken Bow Speech Meet this Saturday, Jan. 24.



Cozad High School novice speakers Adeline Joyce and Rebecca Burns continued their winning ways at the CNFL #1 speech meet in Grand Island on Jan. 17 as they received 2nd place medals for their Duet Acting. The duo had placed 4th at the Lexington Speech Invite on Jan. 10. (Courtesy Photo)

Big E's Celebrates 4 Years

LIZ ROMERO

Big E's marked its fourth anniversary with a celebration on Saturday, Jan. 17, welcoming the Cozad community for a night of food, games and prizes.

The evening featured a fish fry, a DJ and a full lineup of games, including Mystery Shot Dice, Drinko, Shut the Box and 3-in-a-Row.

Big E's also offered specialty syringe Jello shots and hosted giveaways throughout the night, giving guests multiple chances to win prizes.

The anniversary party gave locals another reason to gather and celebrate a Cozad business that continues to grow and connect the community.



Guyle Honored For 14 Years of Service

Country Partners celebrated the retirement of Larry Guyle, honoring his 14 years of service to the cooperative. In recognition of his dedication, Larry was presented with a plaque and a monetary gift. He is pictured with Chris Wagner, CEO, and Mike Bellamy, Cozad Location Manager. (Courtesy Photo)

Broken Shafts Wins End of Season Tournament



Broken Shafts won the Cozad Dart League's end of the season dart tournament for the fall session on Jan. 15 at Big E's. Broken Shafts team members are from left, Travis Schweitzer, Amanda Valenzuela, Jeff Underwood and Joel Carlson. (Courtesy Photo)

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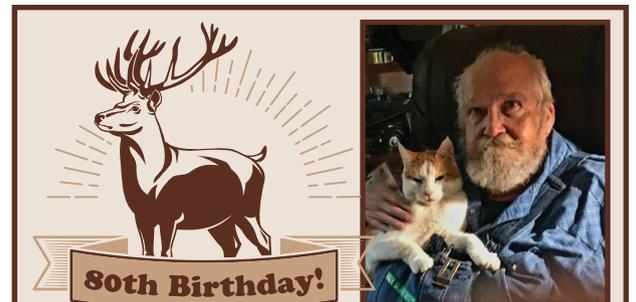
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Haymaker Boys Wrestling Duals Have a Rough Stretch

JAYDEN WILLS

On Jan. 15, the Haymaker boys varsity wrestling team hosted Lexington in a dual. Cozad fell 50 to 27 but competed with energy in front of a strong home crowd on senior night.

Cozad had no wrestlers at 113, 120, 132, 190 and 285 pounds, allowing Lexington to score in those matches. Lexington left the 150 pound weight class open, giving Cozad a chance to gain points.

Several Haymakers turned in solid

performances. Wyatt Hueftle (106) pinned Alejandro Velasquez in 3:15. Kaden Shirley (138) earned a pin over Jaime Lopez in 3:13. Mathew Arndt (144) won by decision over Jatneil Melara, 19 to 12. Marcus Ruano (215) pinned Rudy Ojeda in 3:10.

On Jan. 16, the Haymakers traveled to Minden for a five-dual meet.

Cozad opened against Holdrege and lost 53 to 23. Hueftle won by technical fall over Eli Kidder, 19 to 2, in 2:42.



Mathew Arndt won by decision at the Lexington dual on Jan. 15. (LOCAL Photo by Barry Mraz)

Shirley pinned his opponent in 2:21, and Ruano earned a pin in 3:42.

In the second dual against Hastings, Hueftle secured another technical fall over Darian Bonner in 3:38. Drake Hasbrouck (150) won by decision, 11 to 5. Ruano added a pin in 1:15. Cozad fell 51 to 17.

Cozad then faced Lincoln Northwest and lost 40 to 24. Senior Drake Hasbrouck recorded a pin in 4:57.

In the fourth dual against St. Paul,

Cozad fell 52 to 27. Arndt (144) won by technical fall, 19 to 1, at 3:57. Ruano pinned his opponent in 1:36. Jaden Rodriguez (285) earned a major decision, 11 to 0.

Cozad closed the day against Thayer Central and secured a 38 to 37 win. Shirley (138) pinned his opponent in 1:49. Hasbrouck (150) followed with a pin in 59 seconds. Hueftle capped the meet with a technical fall, winning 20 to 0 in 4:32.



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Last updated on January 12, 2026



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Cozad Gains Momentum Back Again

JAYDEN WILLS

On Jan 15, the Haymakers traveled to Gothenburg to face the Swedes in an intense rivalry. Cozad put up a dominating performance, winning the game 73-58.

In the first quarter, Cozad's offense was strong, putting up a dominating 26 points. Cozad also had a strong performance on defense, only allowing 17 points.

The second quarter Cozad held their momentum, finding their net for 22 points. Cozad stepped it up even more on defense, only allowing 11 points. These two dominating quarters allowed Cozad to hold a 48-28 lead.

Coming out of the locker room after halftime, the Haymakers fell out of their groove, only scoring 13 points and allowing 22 points. Despite this, Cozad still held a 61-50 lead.

Going into the final quarter, Cozad was able to pick their momentum up again and score 12 points, and only allowed 8 points. After this dominating performance, the final score was 73-58, bringing Cozad's record to 13-1.

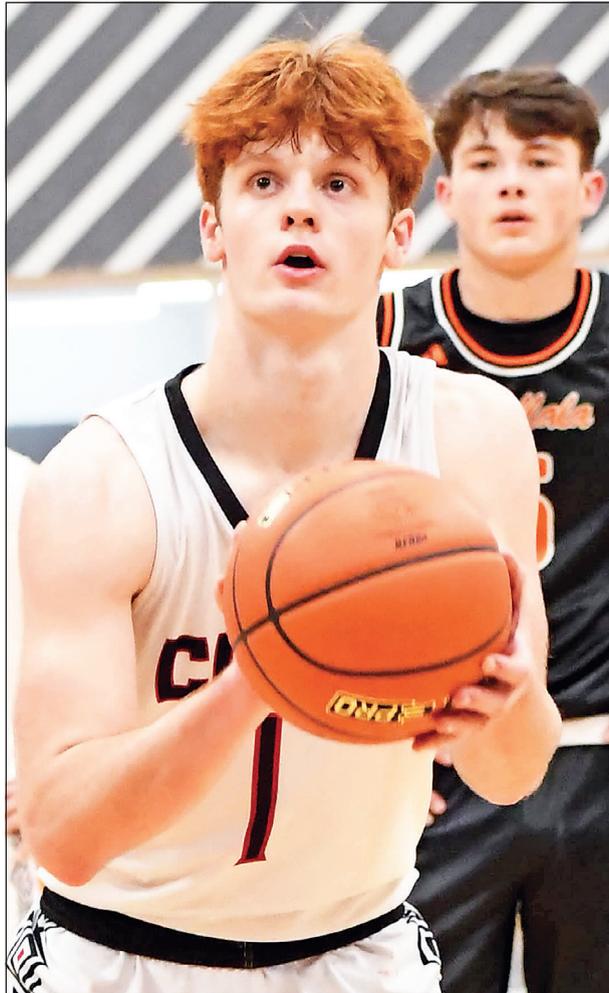
This impressive showing was highlighted with Oliver Davis having an impressive 25 points, leading Cozad in the points category. O. Davis also had an astonishing 11 rebounds, leading Cozad in points and rebounds. Kellen Shoemaker had 22 points on the night; he had the second-most points on Cozad's side for the night.

On Jan 17, Cozad hosted Centura in a regular-season matchup. The final score of this matchup was 81-23.

In the first quarter Cozad came out ready to play and found their side of the court, scoring a crazy 34 points.

Cozad was very impressive on defense, only allowing 12 points, holding a big lead.

The Haymakers carried their momentum from the first quarter into the second scoring 30 points. Cozad stepped it up even more on defense, only allowing 2 points.



Kellen Shoemaker racked up 22 points a game last week against the Swedes on Jan. 15 and against Centura on Jan. 17. (LOCAL Photo by Barry Mraz)

This impressive performance allowed Cozad to hold a 64-13 lead at the end of the first half.

After half-time Cozad continued to dominate over Centura, scoring 8 points and allowing 5.

In the final quarter, the Makers scored 9 points and only allowed another 5. Cozad gained another win to bring their record on the season to 14-1.

This matchup was highlighted by one player specifically. Junior Kellen Shoemaker scored a crazy 22 points with 3 rebounds and 4 steals.

Cozad takes another step forward in their dominating season, hoping to keep this momentum leading into Southwest Conference play.

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Lady Haymakers Take a Tough Loss

JAYDEN WILLS

On Jan. 15, the Lady Haymakers traveled to Gothenburg to face the Swedes in a heated rivalry. The Haymakers weren't able to pull through in the long run, with the final score being 32-63 in favor of the Swedes, but they still put in their best effort.

In the first quarter, the Haymakers put up a total of 6 points but struggled on defense, letting up a total of 16 points.

In the second quarter, the Lady Haymakers were able to find their end of the court for 7 points, but weren't as strong on defense, letting up a total of 17 points, ending the half 13-31 in favor of the Swedes.

The Haymakers tried to make some halftime adjustments, but ultimately were only able to find their net for another 7 points and weren't able to stop Gothenburg's powerful offense.

In the final quarter, Cozad really riled up all their efforts to finish out the game strong. The Lady Haymakers were able to score 12 points to round out the game,



Aubrey Hammerlun displays her strong defensive skills during last week's games. (LOCAL File Photo)

but Gothenburg also tagged on an additional 13 points, making the final score 32-63 to finish the night.

Despite the heartbreaking loss, the Haymakers still had some outstanding players. Junior Braelyn Malcom, led the pack in points with an impressive 12. She stood out in the rebounds category, too, with 6. Another junior Aubrey Hammerlun stood out in her aggressive rebounds with a total of 10. Sophomore Britlin Bussinger had 8 points on the night as well.

On Jan 17, the Haymakers hosted Centura in a regular-season matchup. The final score of this matchup was Cozad down 16-50.

In the first quarter, Cozad tried their best but ultimately couldn't get to the basket and score any points due to Centura's strong defense. Cozad also let up 13 points due to Centura's strong offense.

In the second quarter Cozad was able to get to the basket once for points, but ultimately couldn't level the playing field, letting up another 13 points.

After half-time, Cozad came out with a little more aggression, and they were able to score 5 points. But still, due to Centura's strong offense, they were able to score 15 points.

In the final quarter, Cozad stepped up and was able to find their rhythm and score 9 points. Cozad was also strong on defense and only let up 9 points.

Cozad takes another step forward in their season, getting ready for their next game. Cozad hopes to gain some momentum walking farther into the season.



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Haymaker Girls Wrestling Does Well at the Elm Creek Invite

JAYDEN WILLS

The Haymaker girls wrestling team traveled to Elm Creek for the Elm Creek Girls Invitational on Friday, Jan. 16. Cozad wrestlers gained valuable experience, highlighted by two first-place finishes.

Andrea Saravia led the Lady Haymakers at 145 pounds with a first-place finish and 26.5 team points. Saravia went 4-0 on the day with wins by technical fall, fall and major decision. She closed the tournament with a win over Jaiya Johnson of St. Mary's to claim gold.

Abby Negley also earned a first-place finish at 110 pounds, adding 26 team points. Negley recorded three falls on her way to the finals and secured another pin in the championship match, giving her four pins on the day.

Samantha Roberts placed fourth at 130 pounds and scored 13 team points. Roberts picked up two falls before a semifinal loss, then battled through the consolation bracket to earn her medal.

Daniela Moss (120) scored seven team points, Gracie Roberts (190) added four, and Eva Olivas (170) contributed three.

The Elm Creek Invite marked another positive step for the Cozad girls wrestling program as the team builds momentum heading into the second half of the season.



Andrea Saravia led the Lady Haymakers at 145 pounds with a first-place finish and 26.5 team points. Saravia went 4-0 on the day with wins by technical fall, fall and major decision. She closed the tournament with a win over Jaiya Johnson of St. Mary's to claim gold. (LOCAL Photo by Barry Mraz)

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Cozad High School Honor Roll

Cozad High School has released its 1st semester honor roll, recognizing students for their academic achievement across three tiers: Exemplary Honor Roll, High Honors Honor Roll and Honors Honor Roll.

12th Grade

Exemplary Honor Roll: Abbie C. Albrecht, Gustavo Benavente, Olliver J. Davis, Clatyn L. Fleharty, Crystal R. Hernandez, Chayden L. Hoffmaster, Ava J. Joyce, Layla A. Leahy, Emma Lindekugel, Swaisen L. Mroczek, Abby M. Negley, Lucha L. Olvera, Talyn I. Propp, Klaylee Revelo, Braiton W. Snider, Bryson E. Snider, Gage S. Strauss, Betzaida Utrera, and Camryn E. Yilk.

High Honors Honor Roll: Daygn A. Buss, Koang Deng, Garek Gruber, Drake Hasbrouck, Rebeca Htoo, Marcus R. Ruano, and Maxx J. Vetter.

Honors Honor Roll: Elliott Blackmore, Arleth Enamorado, Bryant M. Feik, and Brooklyn N. Kraft.

11th Grade

Exemplary Honor Roll: Mathew T. Arndt, Ethan Atchison, Brayden C. Barber, Jacob R. Brooks, Carolyn J. Cook, Elijah Graves, Braedon C. Groteluschen, Aubrey Hammerlun, Addison Howerter, Eh Thaw Hser, Myles A. Ide, Chandler J. Kaup, Braelyn E. Malcom, Morgan N. Mraz, Owen Ross, Kellen Shoemaker, Rieker M. Spradlin, and Gabriela Vazquez.

High Honors Honor Roll: Ella G. Atchison, Josie J. Bowers, Gavin Guerra, Sara Howell, and Emma Howerter.

Honors Honor Roll: Izabella Day and Harrison Edeal.

10th Grade

Exemplary Honor Roll: Jaxson Arndt, Audrey A. Baker, Charles E. Baker, Lola Bennett, Apiphany B. Bowden, Julien B. Davis, Brooke Dyer, Emalyn A. Geiger, Miles T. German, Bailey L. Hyatt, Collin McFall, Aleigha May Negley, Dilan OrellanaMedina, Riley G. Peck, Whitney K. Regelin, and Hayden Revelo.

High Honors Honor Roll: Erika M. Bravo, Clinton JP Carlson-Costanza, Austin Feik, Hadley E. Kloepping, Emersyn J. Propp, Kordillia Tena, and Brooklyne Wingrove.

Honors Honor Roll: Aiden W. Allbright, Miles Buss, Arleth Casillas, Manny Castillo, Brynna N. Edeal, Carson K. Favinger, Briley K. Fisher, Marley Fochtman, Hailee M. Hemphill, Kaydience Martin-Jackson, Mia M. Richie, Jaden A. Rodriguez-Martinez, Brenner K. Thayer, and Macie L. Walker.

9th Grade

Exemplary Honor Roll: Evelyn D. Bravo, Makenna R. Broz, Henessy F. Cargill, Saryah Carter, Reagan B. Chrisinger, Taegan M. Dexter, Baylee Eldridge, Kyrie R. Eveland, Adlei Groteluschen, Isabella N. Hernandez, Andrea Huntsman, Raegan G. Love, Maria Fernanda Martinez, Ashton Osborn, Ashlynn A. Propp, Matthew D. Rhoades, Ozzie Benjamin Levi Romero, Mollie B. Spradlin, Joshua Stephen, and Nolan J. Yilk.

High Honors Honor Roll: Koehn L. Baker, Bristol Eldridge, Nevaeh E. Harvey, Chase Hasbrouck, Sadie G. Hosick, Brantley J. Malcom, Audrey L. Osburn, Brody R. Poppert, and Jayden M. Wills.

Honors Honor Roll: Bryson R. Barela, Rebecca Burns, Wyatt L. Hueftle, Adeline Joyce, Matthew Keith, and Jannessa L. Morrison.

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Cozad Middle School 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Honors Honor Roll

Grade 8:

Ella S. Baal, Remlee R. Bartlett, Journey Bazata, Lawrence Brass, Lila Brooks, Coy Chytka, Hayden M. Chytka, Levii Cover, Kynzlei L. Dishman, Karly Enamorado, Zoey M. Feddersen, Kael Hammerlun, Noah L. Hemphill, Tersan Iosinobu, Hailey Jensen, Parker C. Kinnan, Evelyn M. Koch, Addyson Kruse, Maison Larsen, Cadence J. Lee, Trevor Maudlin, Estefany Mejia, Maysen R. Melcher, Alejandra M. Nunez-Brunick, Alec Osborn, Heidi A. Rafael Lorenzo, Scarlett Ramirez, Kaleb Revelo, Aaliyah F. Richie, LikeMe Shirai, Richardson Shirai, Paisley R. Underwood, Liam D. Whirlwind Horse, and Raileigh G. Wolfe.

Grade 7:

Austin Albertson, Lexiann Barnes, Brayden Beisner, Kryston Browning, Dodson W. Buhring, Brantly Buss, Ellie J. Canas, Lucrecia N. Cordova Pereira,

Chandler D. Cullers, Zackary W. Dunbar, Milee L. Durner, Eli Elliott, Brenna N. Fisher, Kaidyn Follmer, Bentley Griffis, Gretchen Guerra, Alexander Guyle, Blaze A. Halligan, Jacob Harvey, Parker A. Henry, Kaylee M. Hild, Landry E. Ide, Peyton Jesseph, Zaveri K. Kloepping, Shaelyn Kniesteadt, Arazelie Lugo Castro, Michelle R. McArdle, Tyler W. McMullen, Elyzabeth Pruner, Yanelin Quintana Gamez, Evelyn N. Rafael Lorenzo, Sydney L. Rahn, Joanes Sana, Aiden Schneider, Matthew Sydow, Zayne Thurn, Michael Walsh, Izabella MR Way, Aidan Williamson, and Jaxon Woltemath.

Grade 6:

Blake S. Aitken, Chayton L. Albrecht, Leyla Anderson, Olivia Anderson, Alex Beavers, Reece Bliven, Adam J. Bossert, Lily G. Brown, Kristina A. Burns, Braelynn J. Carlson-Costanza, Maecyn G. Chrisinger, Lincoln J. Cisneros, Boston Edeal, Waylon J. Erickson, Brantlee Fay, Asher M.

Freeman, Ayvah Freeman, Nakita Griffis, Haven D. Grube, Paizley Hansen, Nixon M. Hendricksen, Emilee-May Iosinobu, Averie Rae Kinnan, Olivia Long, Kevin Maikner, Jacob Martinez, Roklyn Montoya, Serenity Needham, Renlee Newbrey, Yulian Ramirez, Reinie Robertson, Jimena Rodriguez-Martinez, Ira Rutkowski, Emery K. Schacher, Giovanni Shirai, Lux Shirley, Easton Swanson, Tommy Yerten, and Weston Zook.

All A's Honor Roll

Grade 8:

Loreayna Adkisson, Charlotte Ahrens, Emily M. Albrecht, Tucker Brill, Samuel Brown, Braylee Carlson, Jackson M. Dowdy, Kelsey T. Favinger, Tomas A. Garcia Francisco, Benjamin Hanna, Kaitlyn Hyatt, Maky Iosinobu, Nakaiya Logan, Cody Mraz, Jesse Rodriguez-Martinez, Mekida M. Rong, Samuel Ross, Adysen Stark, and Abbie P. Waller.

Grade 7:

Ryker L. Armagost, Max H. Bazata, Bella Boots, Jackson M. Broz, Santiago Casillas, Anna Dillon, Morgan L. Florke, Mila Fochtman, Grayden Guerra, Lucy Hanna, Myles Heimann, Keyla Hernandez Velasquez, Quinley R. Keith, Meyer Kinnan, Elizabeth G. Moo, Teagan R. Peterson, Zoey Priel, Josslynn Propp, Rese Sam, Camryn Shoemaker, Sophiya Snyder, Zoey O. Trejo, Tarin Yerten, Amina Yeutter, and Jax Yocom.

Grade 6:

Aryiah R. Allbright, Easton E. Bazata, Lenor Bennett, Blakely F. Broz, Tripp Chytka, Tag M. Craig, Mallory Geiger, Lucky J. Htoo, Bailey Orozco, Kamrynn Rhoades, Chloe Russell, Elizabeth Russell, Ivy Russell, Blake Sabin, Ava Sturgeon, Piper Sturgeon, Bryson Treacle, Emmett Tvrdy, Kori Wolfe, and Kasen Yilk.

Cozad Middle School 1st Semester Honor Roll

Honors Honor Roll

Grade 8:

Isaias R. Arevalo, Ella S. Baal, Remlee R. Bartlett, Journey Bazata, Rayne J. Bliven, Lawrence Brass, Lila Brooks, Emily Castellanos, Coy Chytka, Logan Cook, Levii Cover, Kynzlei L. Dishman, Karly Enamorado, Zoey M. Feddersen, Tomas A. Garcia Francisco, Kael Hammerlun, Noah L. Hemphill, Tersan Iosinobu, Hailey Jensen, Troy A. Kraft, Addyson Kruse, Maison Larsen, Cadence J. Lee, Hunter R. Maudlin, Trevor Maudlin, Estefany Mejia, Maysen R. Melcher, Jacobi I. Mendoza, Alejandra M. Nunez-Brunick, Alec Osborn, Heidi A. Rafael Lorenzo, Kaleb Revelo, Kollin K. Russell, Conner B. Sanders, LikeMe Shirai, Richardson Shirai, Paisley R. Underwood, Abbie P. Waller, and Raileigh G. Wolfe.

Grade 7:

Austin Albertson, Lexiann Barnes, Kryston Browning, Brantly Buss, Ellie J. Canas, Lucrecia N. Cordova Pereira, Chandler D. Cullers, Milee L. Durner, Eli Elliott, Brenna

N. Fisher, Mila Fochtman, Kaidyn Follmer, Josiah Graves, Gretchen Guerra, Alexander Guyle, Blaze A. Halligan, Jacob Harvey, Parker A. Henry, Keyla Hernandez Velasquez, Kaylee M. Hild, Landry E. Ide, Peyton Jesseph, Zaveri K. Kloepping, Shaelyn Kniesteadt, Arazelie Lugo Castro, Michelle R. McArdle, Tyler W. McMullen, Arianna Montoya, Teagan R. Peterson, Elyzabeth Pruner, Yanelin Quintana Gamez, Evelyn N. Rafael Lorenzo, Sydney L. Rahn, Joanes Sana, Aiden Schneider, Sophiya Snyder, Matthew Sydow, Zayne Thurn, Michael Walsh, Izabella MR Way, Aidan Williamson, Jaxon Woltemath, and Amina Yeutter.

Grade 6:

Blake S. Aitken, Chayton L. Albrecht, Eden Albrecht, Leyla Anderson, Alex Beavers, Reece Bliven, Kristina A. Burns, Braelynn J. Carlson-Costanza, Maecyn G. Chrisinger, Lincoln J. Cisneros, Aidan G. Coble, Rilie Cook, Harper Earl, Boston Edeal, Waylon J. Erickson, Brantlee Fay, Asher M. Freeman, Ayvah Freeman, Taft A.

Gengenbach, Dallas Gifford, Nakita Griffis, Paizley Hansen, Vivian L. Haynie, Nixon M. Hendricksen, Emilee-May Iosinobu, Averie Rae Kinnan, Olivia Long, Kevin Maikner, Jacob Martinez, Roklyn Montoya, Jace A. Morrison, Serenity Needham, Renlee Newbrey, Yulian Ramirez, Reinie Robertson, Ira Rutkowski, Emery K. Schacher, Giovanni Shirai, Jose Shirai, Lux Shirley, Bryson Treacle, Emmett Tvrdy, Tommy Yerten, and Weston Zook.

All A's Honor Roll

Grade 8:

Loreayna Adkisson, Charlotte Ahrens, Emily M. Albrecht, Tucker Brill, Samuel Brown, Braylee Carlson, Hayden M. Chytka, Jackson M. Dowdy, Kelsey T. Favinger, Benjamin Hanna, Kaitlyn Hyatt, Maky Iosinobu, Parker C. Kinnan, Evelyn M. Koch, Nakaiya Logan, Cody Mraz, Aaliyah F. Richie, Jesse Rodriguez-Martinez, Mekida M. Rong, Samuel Ross, Adysen Stark, and Liam D. Whirlwind Horse.

Grade 7:

Ryker L. Armagost, Max H. Bazata, Brayden Beisner, Bella Boots, Jackson M. Broz, Dodson W. Buhring, Santiago Casillas, Anna Dillon, Morgan L. Florke, Grayden Guerra, Lucy Hanna, Myles Heimann, Quinley R. Keith, Meyer Kinnan, Elizabeth G. Moo, Zoey Priel, Josslynn Propp, Rese Sam, Camryn Shoemaker, Zoey O. Trejo, Tarin Yerten, and Jax Yocom.

Grade 6:

Aryiah R. Allbright, Olivia Anderson, Easton E. Bazata, Lenor Bennett, Adam J. Bossert, Lily G. Brown, Blakely F. Broz, Tripp Chytka, Tag M. Craig, Mallory Geiger, Haven D. Grube, Lucky J. Htoo, Bailey Orozco, Kamrynn Rhoades, Jimena Rodriguez-Martinez, Chloe Russell, Elizabeth Russell, Ivy Russell, Blake Sabin, Ava Sturgeon, Piper Sturgeon, Easton Swanson, Kori Wolfe, and Kasen Yilk.

Eustis-Farnam Students Earn Semester 1 Honor Roll Recognition

LIZ ROMERO

Eustis-Farnam Schools released the Semester 1 Honor Roll for the 2025–2026 school year, recognizing students for strong academic performance. Students on the Honor Roll earned all A's and B's, while those on the High Honor Roll earned all A's.

Seventh grade students recognized include Logan Smith, Kellan Newcomb, *Madelyn Oberg (not pictured), *Kinley Spiegel, *Jacquelyn Koch, and *Avery Oberg (not pictured).

Eighth grade honorees are Paislee Knackstedt, Lucas Cochrane, and *Coralee Schurr.

Freshmen earning honors are Samuael Dytrych, Piper Puls, Madelyn Kugler, Maddeline Tryon, Kyson Dean, and *Whitney Wall.

Sophomore students recognized include Maryah Oberg (not pictured), Cole Dean, and Beau Kerzner.

Juniors on the list are Shelby Rae Jurjens, *Olivia Wall, *Lauryn Ruda, *Jennae Brockmeier, and *Brecken Hecox.

Senior honorees include Whitney Page, Hunter Kugler, Ethan Oberg, Cooper Knackstedt, *Bentley Stubbs, *Malia Viter, and *Bladen Williams.

Eustis-Farnam staff commend these students for their commitment to learning and the effort they bring to the classroom each day.



(Courtesy Photo)

Extending Compassion Inward

I felt sick.

That doesn't happen often to me, and certainly not to the point of missing work or cancelling commitments. But the reality remained: I did not feel well. I didn't want to move far from the couch or the nearest bathroom. Even the slightest effort seemed insurmountable.

And do you know what my first thought was?

Denial.

I am not that sick. It really isn't that bad. "You just need to get up and move around a bit," I told myself. "Focusing on it is probably making it worse than it really is." I dismissed my own experience, brushing aside how I was feeling.

Then, anger arrived.

I blamed myself for whatever choices I believed had led me here. The anger turned inward and became self-condemning. If you had done things differently, you wouldn't be in this situation. There was no grace, only blame.

What struck me later was this: I would never treat another person this way.

When my kids or loved ones have been sick over the



years, I met them with tenderness and compassion. I offered soothing remedies, comforting words, and patient care. I never questioned whether their sickness was real. I've never raged at them for feeling unwell. My focus has always been on loving them.

Yet none of that love was extended to myself.

As denial and anger slowly ebbed, the "shoulds" began to crash upon me like wave after wave. It was a beautiful day outside, and I should be enjoying it. I should be getting things done. Surely, I needed to be more productive rather than lying on the couch.

I admit it's a little embarrassing to share such an unflattering look at my inner reactions. Recently, I listened to a man who had lost his left arm and leg in an accident speak about gratitude and maintaining a

positive attitude. In the face of a devastating, life-altering injury he managed to find humor and to look for the opportunities.

Meanwhile, in the midst of my wimpy winter illness, I struggled to muster anything close to that response.

And so the vicious cycle continued—self-criticism. I realized how deeply ingrained this habit is. I am far more comfortable being hard on myself than allowing space for imperfection. I rarely permit myself anything short of what I define as "doing it right."

But life isn't made up solely of perfect moments.

It includes sickness, struggle, disappointment, and days that don't go as planned. Often, it's the moments of greatest adversity that teach us the most. Struggle stretches us. Pressure builds strength. Growth is born in places we would never willingly choose.

I'm learning that embracing those moments with gratitude when I can, and grace when I can't, changes everything. And I'm learning that it's okay if my first reaction isn't the best one. I can pause. I can course-correct and try again.

There is an opportunity for self-compassion in that, too.

DPPD Board Votes to Retain Officers

COZAD LOCAL

At its January meeting, the Dawson Public Power District Board voted to retain its current officers. Dan Muhlbach of Kearney was re-elected as President, Craig Wietjes of Riverdale will continue to serve as Vice President, and Page Peterson of Gothenburg was reaffirmed as Treasurer. Financial reports through November 2025 show year-to-date revenue was slightly below budget by 3% and nearly the same as 2024. Overall operating costs are 1% less than budgeted, although they are up 2% compared to the previous year. Year-to-date net margin is \$1.36 million under budget.

The Board was provided with updates on DPPD's Key Accounts, Crisis Communication Plan, and Cybersecurity Incident Response Policy. Safety Director Dean Kunkee presented his capstone project from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Management Internship Program and expressed appreciation to the Board for supporting his participation in this valuable training.

Other topics discussed were that several of the board members and DPPD employees attended the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting. Directors Wietjes, Brodine, Muhlbach, and Peterson attended the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Annual Meet-



ing. Directors Brodine and Wietjes, and DPPD Leadership Team Members Alyssa Clemens Roberts and Cole Brodine attended the Nebraska Public Power District's December

Customer Meeting. The DPPD Board and Leadership Team are scheduled to conduct strategic planning for the organization in February.

Lease Agreements; Verbal vs. Written

SHANNON SAND

If you're renting farmland in Nebraska, there are a few lease options to think about. A lot of folks still use a verbal or handshake agreement and that's fine, however it's good to know what happens when it's time to end one. For cropland, the Nebraska Supreme Court says the lease year starts on March first. If a landowner wants to end a year-to-year verbal cropland lease, they need to give notice six months ahead, that means by September first. Most people recommend that people send notices by Registered Mail, so you've got proof it was received.

Pasture leases are a little simpler. They usually line up with the grazing season for about five or six months and most end automatically when the grazing's done, unless there's something different written in an agreement.

Even though handshake deals are common, putting it in writing is always the best route. A written lease keeps things clear, protects everyone involved, and helps avoid misunderstandings.

Want to learn more or see an example of a sample lease? Check out the Ag Lease 101 Document Library online.

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Nebraska Extension Commercial Pesticide Training Dates Set for North Platte

COZAD LOCAL

Nebraska Extension will offer commercial pesticide training for initial certification and recertification at the West Central Research, Extension and Education Center in North Platte.

The training program will offer multiple dates for initial training and recertification. All sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m., and participants are encouraged to arrive

early for check-in.

Understanding the difference between commercial and noncommercial applicators is important when considering commercial pesticide training.

A noncommercial applicator is a licensed applicator who applies restricted-use pesticides only on land owned or controlled by their employer or for a gov-

ernmental agency or political subdivision of the state. This category also includes individuals using restricted or general-use pesticides for communitywide outdoor vector control on behalf of a political subdivision of the state.

A commercial applicator is a licensed applicator who applies restricted-use pesticides on a contractual or for-hire basis.

The registration fee for in-person training and online recertification training is \$95.

To register for training programs or order educational materials, visit pested.unl.edu.

For more information, contact Dave Boxler at 308-696-6721 or at dave.boxler@unl.edu.

DAWSON COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

Rodriguez-Guevara, Jorge E - 33

Lexington, NE - 01/09/2026 @ 00:21 - Driving During Revocation, No Insurance

Alliy, Carmisha - 47

O'Neill, NE - 01/09/2026 @ 17:35 - Dawson County Warrant, Issue Bad Check \$0-\$500

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

Gonzalez Valenzuela, Maycon - 26

Cozad, NE - 01/10/2026 @ 21:35 - Driving Under Influence Liquor- Refusal, No Operator's License, Flight To Avoid Arrest

Morataya Sanchez, Aura Camila - 20

Lexington, NE - 01/10/2026 @ 22:15 - No Operator's License

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

Tovar-Ruiz, Gerardo - 35

Lexington, NE - 01/11/2026 @ 00:02 - Dawson County Warrant, Del/Dsp/Dst/Man/Pos Except Haz Drug

Larrington, Darrin - 59

Gothenburg, NE - 01/11/2026 @ 02:21 - Threat-Terroristic-State Offenses, Use Of A Weapon To Commit A Felony, Domestic Assault 3rd Degree

Eichhorn, Bridgette Helena - 40

Lexington, NE - 01/11/2026 @ 08:03 - No Operator's License

Magana, Hosea Luke - 38

Gothenburg, NE - 01/11/2026 @ 15:21 - Dawson County Warrant, Fail To Register As A Sex Offender

Prudencio-Ramos, Sebastian Cristino - 47

Elizabeth, NJ - 01/11/2026 @ 18:43 - Theft- Unlawful Taking \$5,000 +, Driving Under Influence Of Alcohol .15+, Trespassing 2nd Degree

Davis III, Gregory Wayne - 48

Oakland, CA - 01/11/2026 @ 21:29 - Alabama Warrant, FTA Stolen Property 1st

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

Johnson, Heddie Rose - 35

Lexington, NE - 01/12/2026 @ 13:25 - Probation Violation-DUI

Meigs Jr, Loren Munson - 78

Lexington, NE - 01/12/2026 @ 13:30 - Fail To Register As A Sex Offender

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

Mohamed, Haroun H - 35

Lexington, NE - 01/13/2026 @ 00:37 - 2nd Degree Trespassing

Wadi, Habib H - 49

Schuyler, NE - 01/13/2026 @ 00:38 - Driving Under The Influence .15 - 3rd

Mohamed, Haroun H - 35

Lexington, NE - 01/13/2026 @ 20:20 - 2nd Degree Trespassing

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

Marsh, Steven Eugene - 64

Lexington, NE - 01/14/2026 @ 04:44 - Trespassing

McKinney Jr, Lashawn Valdemar - 31

Jackson, MI - 01/14/2026 @ 12:33 - Possession Of A Controlled Substance-Meth, No Operator's License, Marijuana Possession-Less Than 1 Oz, Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

Benscoter, Cody S - 33

Omaha, NE - 01/15/2026 @ 18:17 - No Operator's License, Marijuana Possession-Less Than 1 Oz

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COZAD LOCAL 308-784-4747

Legals

Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF PLUM CREEK GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK, LLC

Notice is hereby given that PLUM CREEK GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office at 127 Mallard Beach Dr. 22A, Johnson Lake, NE 68937. 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. 15, 2026
Jan. 22, 2026
Jan. 29, 2026
(19) znez

Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that a meeting will be held by the Cozad City Council on Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Cozad City Office located at 215 West 8th Street. The meeting has been scheduled to approve a recommendation from the Planning Commission on the preliminary and final plat – CDC Addition No. #8 – a replat of Cover Subdivision Block 1, to the City of Cozad, Dawson County, Nebraska.

Kelly Peden
Deputy Clerk
City of Cozad

Jan. 22, 2026
(18) znez

Notice

TO: LAKOTA PLENTYCHIEF AND ALL OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE GUARDIANSHIP OF DAMIAN ENRIQUE ANDRES DEROCKBRAINE

Take notice a Petition for Appointment of a Guardian of a Minor has been filed in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, the purpose of which is to appoint Aracely Miguel Andres as

Guardian of the above mentioned minor child. A hearing on the Petition for Appointment of a Guardian of a Minor has been set for the 18th day of February, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Dawson County Court, Lexington, Nebraska. Dated this 9th day of January, 2026.

Aracely Miguel Andres,
Petitioner

BY: Claire K. Bazata, #25461
of Berreckman & Bazata,
P.C., L.L.O.

Attorneys for Petitioner
801 Meridian Avenue,
P.O. Box 214
Cozad, Nebraska 69130-0214
(308) 784-2040
(308) 784-2043 fax
cbazata@cozadtel.net

Jan. 22, 2026
Jan. 29, 2026
Feb. 5, 2026
(34) znez

Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that a meeting will be held by the Cozad Ditch Company on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Wilson Human Services Center 105 East Highway 30, Cozad, NE 69130.

Jan. 22, 2026
Jan. 29, 2026
(7) znez

Notice

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF BETTY A. YOCOM, DECEASED ESTATE NO. PR26-1

Notice is hereby given that on January 7, 2026, in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Timothy R. Yocom, 1520 K St., Cozad, NE 69130, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 16, 2026, or be forever barred.

Myndee M Hagan
Clerk of the County Court
of Dawson County
700 N. Washington
Lexington, NE 68850
Claude E. Berreckman, Jr.,
#17049
of Berreckman & Bazata,
P.C., L.L.O.

801 Meridian Ave, PO Box 214
Cozad, NE 69130-0214
(308) 784-2040
(308) 784-2043 – fax
claudelj@cozadtel.net

Jan. 15, 2026
Jan. 22, 2026
Jan. 29, 2026
(37) znez

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

COZAD, NEBRASKA JANUARY 6, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works was held at the Council Chamber on January 6, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Present: Young, Sladek, Jacob, and Neill. Absent: none. Also present: Electric Commissioner Chris White, Water Commissioner Troy Franzen, Council Members Hernandez and Worthman, Mayor Kloepping and Attorney Rowling. Notice of the meeting was posted in advance at the City Office, Wilson Public Library and Post Office. Each member was notified of the meeting and the proposed agenda. Board Chairman Young informed the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the Council Chambers. All

proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Motion was made by Neill, seconded by Jacob to waive the formal reading for the minutes held on December 9, 2025, and approve as presented/amend the minutes to read: The Board voted as follows: Aye: Neill, Young, Jacob, and Sladek. Nay: None Motion adopted. The Board discussed Monthly Activities. Commissioner White reported he is working on tree trimming and easements. NE Plastics project is on plan. Commissioner Franzen reported we are clear on pfas testing for EPA. Bid

opening on January 29, 2026. Also, the new truck is in. Asked to declare Emergency to repair manhole. 222 HARDWARE-su-269.32, B & B PROPERTIES, LLC-re-400.00, KENT BARTLETT-re-366.00, BLACK HILLS ENERGY-se-3906.23, CITY OF COZAD-ins-30044.48, CITY OF COZAD RETIREMENT-ins-10886.94, CITY OF COZAD-TRANSFER OF FUND-tf-39083.17, COZAD AUTO SUPPLY-su-630.45, COZAD TELEPHONE COMPANY-se-746.08, DAWSON PEST CONTROL-se-55.11, DUTTON-LAINSON CO.-su-16887.83, EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS-se-95.27, ELAN FINANCIALSERVICES-ex-802.67,

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Legals

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-
ING & EQUIP CO.-se-102.27,
ERIC NELSEN-re-206.40,
FAST FORWARD-se1600.00,
HOMESTEAD BANK-
se-36.20, INTERNAL REVE-
NUE SERVICE-ex-16740.33,
JEO CONSULTING GROUP,
INC.-se-4855.50, LARRY
SWANSON-re-56.00, LUIS
NUNEZ-se-165.00, MAU-
RICE ANDRES-re-60.00,
MEAD BUILDING CEN-
TERS-su-982.90, MILLER &
ASSOCIATES CONSULTING
ENG-se-2600.00, MUNICIPAL
SUPPLY, INC. OF NE-su-2558.20,
NE DEPARTMENT OF REVE-
NUE - 26878.30, NE DEPT OF
WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIOR-

MENT-ex-460.00, NE GENER-
ATOR SERVICE LLC-se-800.76,
NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRON-
MENTAL LABS-se-82.00, NEO-
NLINK-se-457.20, PREMIER
POWER, LLC-se-24862.50,
ROBERT NUTT-re-280.00,
ROOSTER GARAGE DOORS-
se-212.00, SKARSHAUG TEST-
ING LAB, INC.-ex-3032.16,

SONNY'S SUPER FOODS, INC.-
su-3.38, SYNDICATE PUBLISH-
ING LLC -se-91.62, TURNER
TECHNOLOGY - 1250.77, UPS-
se-630.97, VESTIS-se-390.38,
W BAR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
LLC-su-34.54, WAYNZ WORLD
HTG & AIR CONDITIONING
LLC-se-1256.76, WESCO DIS-
TRIBUTION, INC.-su-14121.76

Total - 213195.53. Payroll
total-50000.11. Motion was
made by Sladek, seconded by
Neill to approve the bills as
presented. The board voted
as follows: Aye: Neill, Sladek,
Jacob and Young. Nay: None.
Motion adopted. Motion
was made by Jacob, second-
ed by Sladek, to adjourn the

meeting. The Board voted
as follows: Aye: Neill, Sladek,
Jacob and Young. Nay: None
Motion adopted. Meeting ad-
journed at 12:45 P.M.

CHAIRMAN
SECRETARY

Jan. 22, 2026
(124) znez

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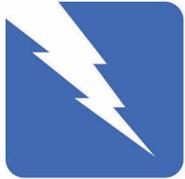
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in every space we share.

A Kind Word

A Helping Hand

A Simple Smile

A Moment of Gratitude

Include Someone

A Random Act of Kindness

