

# COZAD LOCAL

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Cozad native Ellie (Stallbaumer) Gibbens has fulfilled her dream of returning to her hometown to open her own counseling practice, Gibbens Family Counseling. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

## Turning Loss Into Purpose Gibbens Opens Counseling Practice

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Ellie (Stallbaumer) Gibbens, Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner, NCC, has joined the list of Cozad High School graduates returning to Cozad to open their own business. Gibbens opened Gibbens Family Counseling on Sept. 10, 2025, in the former CBS Real Estate office building located at 111 E. 9th Street in Cozad. She purchased the building from CBS realtor Deb Darnall, who now rents office space from Gibbens.

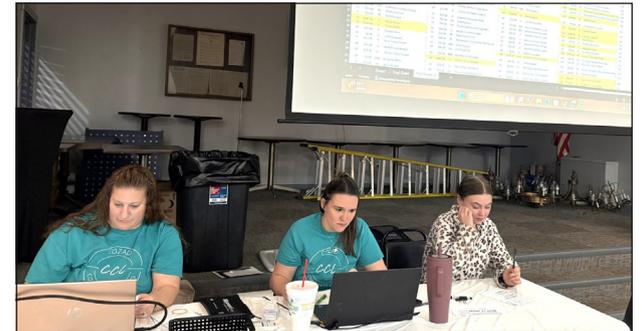
Gibbens grew up in Cozad and graduated from Cozad High School in 2018. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor

in business from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2021 and a master's degree in clinical mental health in 2023.

Gibbens married her high school sweetheart, Kaleb, a 2018 graduate of Eustis-Farnam High School, in 2022. Kaleb is a plumber for Kirk's Septic and Trenching. They have two daughters: Halle, age 2, and Lyla, 9 months. "I graduated with my master's degree one week and had Halle a week later, so it was a bit hectic for a few months," Gibbens laughed.

"I've known since I was young that I wanted to help people, and even before

**cont. PAGE 6**



**PAGE 3 - Annual CCL Auction**



**PAGE 8 - Cattlemens Banquet**



**PAGE 20 - Elementary Concert**

# Life Needs an Oil Change Now and Then

I like change when I am the one in charge of it. New shoes, yes. A fresh coat of paint, absolutely. But when someone else changes the plan, the schedule, or a forced password update, suddenly I need a moment.

Still, I have learned that change rarely shows up without a reason.

Take something simple, like changing clothes. No one argues with that. We change because the weather shifts, seasons roll in and out of Nebraska without asking permission. Crisp January mornings we layer up because in January afternoon we need short sleeves. We adjust because it makes sense and normally makes like easier.

Same with changing the sheets. No one clings to a fitted sheet and says, "But not this one." We strip the bed, wash everything, and crawl into crisp, clean comfort that feels like we have our life together, at least for eight hours.

Rearranging a room works the same way. My husband will leave for a business trip knowing. He knows it. The kids know it. The dog senses it.

He will call from the hotel and ask what I am doing.

"Nothing," I say, while lifting the couch up and using my toe to shuffle a slick magazine under the legs because it makes it easier to push across the carpet.

He comes home to a chair that used to live by the window, and at least one item that has vanished entirely. I call it refreshing the space, while he's worrying if the dumpster has been emptied because he knows I threw things away. He accepts it because he also knows that the house

feels cared for. It will feel alive.

Once everything settles, once the furniture finds its new home, the room feels lighter. It feels like we pressed reset without packing a single box.

At work, when someone announces a new system, no one claps. We all sit there thinking about passwords, training sessions, and a million reasons why we don't need it. Change feels like extra work at first. It slows you down.

Then, one day, you realize the new system cuts your time in half. The reports make sense. The process flows. What felt like chaos turns into efficiency. The frustration had a purpose.

Even something as ordinary as changing the oil in the car fits the pattern. That small change keeps the engine running longer. It prevents a bigger, louder, more expensive problem later. A little inconvenience now protects something valuable down the road.

Life mirrors that rhythm, with your heart and your mind.

We have routines that serves us. We change habits when they wear us down. We change our minds when we learn something new. Growth requires movement. Movement requires change.

Sometimes change arrives uninvited. A shift in responsibilities. A new season of parenting. A role that stretches you beyond what feels comfortable. In those moments, I want to drag the couch back to its original spot and pretend I moved nothing.

But comfort can turn into stagnation if we cling to it too tightly. Change forces us to pay atten-

## Liz Romero



tion. It wakes us up. It shakes the dust off routines we stopped noticing.

Every time I paint a wall, I second guess if I need semigloss or gloss, what is eggshell even used for? I can't wipe dog drool off a flat black wall; it removes the color too.

We change our sheets because we value comfort, cleanliness, and freshness. Just like our clothes, even if we change into used ones as soon as we get home. We change systems because we want efficiency. We change oil because we want longevity.

Change does not always mean something went wrong. Often it means we believe something can be better.

So if you walk into my house next week and the couch has moved again, just know I am not restless. I am maintaining my engine. And hiding a new hole in the wall behind a photo.

Anywho, this week is about noticing the change you bring to your life. Next week might be about how I finally went to the chiropractor and I didn't fart nor did I become paralyzed while being adjusted. My two biggest fears. Stick around and we will find out together. Just stick around. I want you here.

**A fresh friend, Liz**

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### 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 to liz@cozadlocal.com, or mailed to P.O. Box 188, Cozad, NE 69130.

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## Weather Forecast

Feb. 20: 39/16



Feb. 21: 44/14



Feb. 22: 45/16



Feb. 23: 52/29



Feb. 24: 68/30



Feb. 25: 59/29



Feb. 26: 60/24



# Annual CCL Auction Serves Up Sweet Success

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

The Cozad Community Leaders sponsored their annual Cake and Silent Auction on Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Cozad Elks Club. CCL President Lindsey Johanson chaired this popular event, with this year's proceeds designated for South Central Developmental Services. Total proceeds were unavailable at press time.

The Elks Club is a perfect venue for the auction, with four long rows of tables available to display the donated items. Updated bidding totals are projected onto a screen on the stage throughout the day.

There were 127 items donated this year, with patrons placing bids from 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. The \$100 Buy Now option continued to be a favorite, with 36 items purchased in this manner.

Originally, this annual event was called the March of Dimes Cake Auction and was organized by the late Phyllis Gengenbach. Several years ago, the Cozad Jaycees (now the Cozad Community Leaders) decided that the money could be better spent on causes right here in their hometown. CCL members vote each year on a nonprofit cause to receive the proceeds of the auction.

Recipients of the Cake and Silent Auction in recent years since the change was made include the Cozad Food Pantry (2017), the Dawson County Hero Flight (2018), Camp Comeca (2019), Cozad Child Care (2020), Little Disciples Preschool at Cozad United Methodist Church (2021), Cozad's 150th Celebration (2022), the HAWK Recreation Center (2023), Kids of the Kingdom at Cozad United Methodist Church (2024), and Learning Adventures Child Care Center (2025).

This annual event draws members of the community together as they donate and/or bid on a vast array of items, including not only cakes and baked goods, but also a wide variety of food items, gift baskets, gift certificates, and unique items. Unique items this year included a dog bed with accessories and two Mead Lumber buckets filled with tools and supplies.

Cozad High School FCCLA and culinary students made and donated seven cookie plates for this year's auction, featuring a variety of cookies and cookie pops. FCCLA advisors are Jessica De La Torre and Yanira Rodriguez.

A check will be presented to South Central Developmental Services Agency Director Laurie Preitauer and her staff at a later date.



Bidders at the annual CCL Cake and Silent Auction check the updated bids close to the 5:45 p.m. Deadline to see if their bids were high enough to get the items they bid on. The popular event was held at the Cozad Elks Club on Thursday, Feb. 12 and included 127 baked goods and silent auction items, with 36 items being purchased with the \$100 Buy Now Option. Proceeds will be presented to South Central Developmental Agency Director Laurie Preitauer at a later date. (LOCAL Photo)

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# AGRICULTURE



## Cozad FFA earns top finishes at District CDE

LIZ ROMERO

Cozad FFA members competed at District CDE No. 2 on Feb. 11, bringing home several ribbons and strong team results while representing their school and community.

The Ag Mechanics team led the way with a second-place finish and a blue ribbon, earning a spot at the state competition. Maxx Vetter claimed first place overall and the title of District Champion with a purple ribbon. Bryant Feik placed ninth and earned a blue ribbon, while Andrew Huntsman and Austin Feik each placed 12th and received red ribbons. Dale Lankford also contributed to the team effort.

In Poultry Evaluation, Cozad finished fifth as a team. Individual results included Abbie Albrecht in 16th place, Abby Negley in 17th, Montana Durner in 22nd, and Ava Joyce in 43rd.

The Vet Science team placed sixth and earned a white ribbon. Individually, Abbie Albrecht placed 17th, Abby Negley 19th, Montana Durner 27th, and Ava Joyce 29th, with all four

earning blue ribbons.

In addition to competition events, Rylee Nelsen and Matthew Rhoades attended a tour of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture's Veterinary Technology program, where they explored career opportunities in the field.

FFA advisors said the results reflect the students' preparation, teamwork, and commitment. While the chapter returned home with ribbons and a state qualifier, members also carried pride in representing Cozad throughout the district event.



Poultry Evaluation placed fifth. Team members include Abbie Albrecht, 16th place, Abby Negley, 17th place, Montana Durner, 22nd place, and Ava Joyce, 43rd place.



Ag Mechanics earned second place and a blue ribbon, qualifying for state. Team members include Dale Lankford, Bryant Feik, ninth place and a blue ribbon, Andrew Huntsman, 12th place and a red ribbon, Maxx Vetter, District Champion with a first-place purple ribbon, and Austin Feik, 12th place and a red ribbon. (Courtesy Photos)



### Market Report

For the Week as of Feb. 13, 2026

#### Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices, Central Region

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN: \$3.87-\$4.07

US NO 1 SOYBEANS: \$10.18-\$10.43

#### Livestock Weighted Average Report for Feb. 9, 2026

STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)  
Wt. Range - 700-749; Avg Wt - 726; Price Range -  
377.50-438.00; Avg Price - 409.50

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)  
Wt. Range - 600-646; Avg Wt - 623; Price Range -  
394.00-438.00; Avg Price - 422.20

**GOOD LUCK**  
at State Wrestling, Haymakers!

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### Nebraska Brands For Sale

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# Warning Signs of Emerging Kidney Issues

## COZAD LOCAL

Difficulty sleeping is one potential warning sign of kidney issues.

The prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) may surprise those unfamiliar with issues affecting these vital organs that help to purify the blood. According to the National Kidney Foundation®, one in 10 people across the globe is affected by CKD.

The NKF estimates that as many as 35.5 million adults in the United States have kidney disease, while the Kidney Foundation of Canada reports roughly four million people in Canada have kidney disease. It's not uncommon to have kidney disease but not know it, as Dr. Joseph Vassalotti, Chief Medical Officer of the NKF notes that symptoms often do not appear until the late stages of the disease. But two tests, the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and the urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR), are two easy ways to determine if you have kidney disease or not. The NKF recommends yearly blood tests to determine if you have kidney disease, and such tests, along with urine tests that may be part of annual wellness exams, might indicate if a person has kidney disease. Individuals also can keep an eye out for various warning signs that suggest kidney function may not be normal.

· **Less energy or difficulty concentrating:** Malfunctioning kidneys can contribute to a buildup of toxins and impurities in the blood that results in fatigue and difficulty with concentration.

· **Difficulty sleeping:** The NKF notes that kidney disease affects the organs' ability to filter toxins in the blood, which can make it difficult to sleep.

· **Dry and itchy skin:** The NKF also notes that when kidneys can no longer

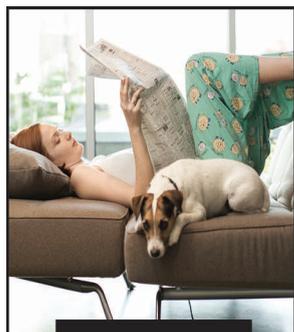
help the body maintain an appropriate balance of minerals and nutrients in the blood, that can lead to chronic kidney disease-associated pruritic, a hallmark of which is itchy skin.

· **Frequent urination:** Kidney disease damages the kidneys' filtration system, and that can lead to a need to urinate with greater frequency.

· **Blood in the urine:** Blood cells can leak into the urine when the kidney's filters are damaged and not filtering waste from the blood as effectively as they should be.

· **Foamy urine:** The NKF noted kidney disease sometimes produces urine so foamy a toilet must be flushed several times before the bubbles go away. That foam is a sign that a protein known as albumin is in the urine.

Additional signs that you might have CKD include persistent puffiness around the eyes, swollen ankles and feet, loss of appetite, and muscle cramping. Each of these symptoms might also indicate other health issues, so each should be brought to the attention of a physician.



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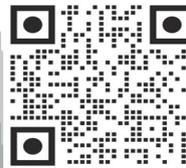
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## from FRONT

I started high school, I knew this was the career path I wanted to take. I visited a therapist for a short time after the tragic accidental death of my brother, Ethan Bazata, in November 2007. I learned early in life what it meant to hurt deeply, and how powerful it can be to have someone simply sit with you in that pain. I want to help others get through the rough times in their lives," Gibbens stated. "As a therapist, my goal is to create a space where people feel safe to be real, to grieve, to grow, and to rediscover their strength and sense of self along the way."

Gibbens worked at a counseling practice prior to opening her own office, gaining valuable experience before returning to Cozad. "Three of my parents have experience owning businesses of their own and encouraged me to pursue my dream of opening my own therapy business," Gibbens shared. Her mom, Heidi, is the State Farm Insurance agent in Cozad; her dad, Brad, owns Stallbaumer Construction in Humphrey; and her stepdad, Brian Bazata, owns ServiceMaster of Mid Nebraska in Lexington. Her stepmom, Renee Stallbaumer, was also supportive of her opening her own practice. "My goal was always to return to Cozad, especially to watch my three younger siblings grow up and attend their activities," Gibbens continued.

"At first, I was afraid that people might worry about knowing me too well to come to me for therapy, but fortunately that hasn't proven to be true," Gibbens said.

Services offered at Gibbens Family Counseling include individual counseling, trauma recovery, family counseling, anxiety management, and depression support. Most major insurances are accepted.

When asked about her counseling philosophy, Gibbens replied, "Every person could benefit from therapy. Humans do better when they're understood, supported, and given space to make sense of themselves without judgment. Therapy isn't about weakness; it's about becoming more conscious, resilient, and human."

Another therapist joined the practice on Oct. 29. Shyenne Grandberry, LIMHP, who lives in North Platte. She is available two days each week at the office and also provides virtual therapy.

Gibbens is a member of the Nebraska Counseling Association. She would like to become active in community organizations at some point but noted that, outside of work, most of her time is spent with her family. "This season of life with our little ones is busy, and I don't have many 'official'



Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioners Ellie Gibbens (right) and Shyenne Grandberry are available by appointment at Gibbens Family Counseling in Cozad, located in Cozad. LIMHP is the highest-level independent mental health license in Nebraska, allowing professionals to diagnose and treat mental/emotional disorders without supervision. (LOCAL Photo)

hobbies right now. I find joy in the simple, meaningful parts of each day; connection, laughter, and quiet moments that remind me what matters most."

To schedule an appointment, call Gibbens at (308) 746-2230 or email her at [ellie.gfc@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.gfc@gmail.com). She is available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. She offers virtual therapy sessions in addition to in-office appointments at 111 E. 9th Street.

## Good Luck Haymaker Wrestlers Take State!

Wyatt Hueftle - 106 lb **District Champion**  
Drake Hasbrouck - 144 lb **District Champion**  
Jaden Rodriguez - 285 lb - **3rd Place at Districts**



## Birth



Trevor and Ali Holley of Gothenburg announce the birth of their son on Feb. 10, 2026, at Gothenburg Health. Krue Hayes Holley was born weighing 8 pounds and 9.5 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches in length. Krue is welcomed by brother Baylor and grandparents Thomas and Katie Holley of Gothenburg; Carlos and Angie Magdaleno of Gothenburg. Great grandparents Cheryl Biltjinitis of Gothenburg, Raymond Albin of Gothenburg, and great-great grandma Anna Alkire of Cozad.

# Cozad Receives State Grant for Scrap Tire Collection

LIZ ROMERO

The City of Cozad will soon see added support for local cleanup efforts after receiving a state grant aimed at reducing waste and improving recycling.

Cozad was awarded \$26,910 through the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's (DWEE) Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund. The funding will support the city's Scrap Tire Collection Site program, with plans to collect approximately 150 tons of scrap tires.

The award is part of a larger statewide effort announced Feb. 11 in which DWEE distributed more than \$7 million for 126 waste and litter reduction projects across Nebraska.

"These funds support local initiatives that help residents properly dispose of household materials," said DWEE Planning and Aid Division Administrator Sarah Starostka. "Many of the funded projects also educate Nebraskans about reducing waste, preventing litter, and improving recycling to keep our communities clean and vibrant."

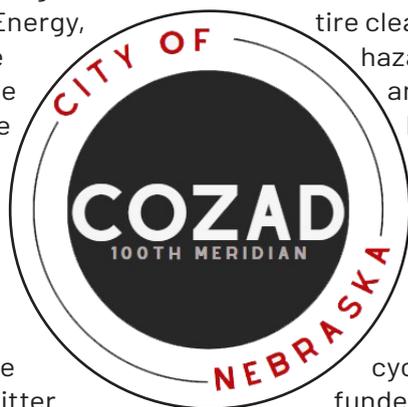
Regionally, additional grants were awarded to neighboring communities. Lexington's Keep Lexington Beautiful received \$41,807 through the Litter Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund to support year-round community recycling trailers.

The Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency was also awarded \$59,106 through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund to host a household hazardous waste event.

Statewide, grant funding will support scrap tire cleanup and collection, household hazardous waste disposal, electronic and pharmaceutical waste collection, recycling programs, and public education efforts. Cleanup grants also provide funding for volunteer litter removal along highways, and other public spaces.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program is funded through landfill disposal fees, annual retail business sales fees, and fees on new tire sales. The Litter Reduction and Recycling Program is funded through fees assessed on manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of products that commonly contribute to litter, along with a fee on new tire sales.

Grant applications for 2027 will open in June.



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## Obituary

**Mary A. Dishman** passed away Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at her home in Cozad at the age of 69. Mary was born June 16, 1956, at Cozad to Sixto and Guadalupe (Ceballos) Rangel. She grew up in Cozad and lived a life filled with hard work and devotion, spending many years in various jobs including Tennaco Automotive and Midwest Transportation. Mary also dedicated part of her life to caring for little ones through her home day-care, where she made a lasting impact on the families she touched.

Mary had a variety of interests that brought her joy. She enjoyed playing softball, shooting pool, and bowling, often sharing these activities with family and friends. Her love for music was profound; she had an extensive collection of music and movies. Most importantly, she found great happiness in caring for her grandchildren and creating memories with her loved ones.

Mary will be remembered for her warm spirit, her love of family, and her passion for life. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Sisto, Johnny, Lupe Ceballos, Damian and Poncho; sisters, Alice, Benigna and Patricia.

Mary is survived by her husband and true love of 52 years, Terry Dishman Sr. of Cozad; son, Terry (Vickie) Dishman Jr. of Bellevue; grandchildren, Terry III of Bellevue, Ashley of Orlando, FL, Ian of Omaha and Amalia Doty of Bellevue; 2 great granddaughters, Lucy and Lily of Cozad; siblings, Virginia (Mike) Newman, Ysidro 'Winky' Rangel, Jessie 'Chita' Rangel, Sally (Steve) Curtice, Sarah Rangel, Simon (Deb) Rangel, half sister Susie (Rock) Thornton; and many loved nieces and nephews.

Celebration of life will be held at a later date. Berryman Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

# Batie's Legacy Honored at Dawson County Cattlemen Banquet

KRYSTLE RHOADES, CORRESPONDENT

The Dawson County Cattlemen gathered Saturday, Feb. 14, for their annual banquet at Meridian Events, celebrating the local beef industry with a prime rib dinner catered by Meridian Tap House, organizational updates, youth recognition and two special awards.

Chairman David Jobman served as master of ceremonies for the evening program.

Quentin Daily provided a Nebraska Cattlemen update, sharing highlights from CattleCon, the annual convention hosted by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), held earlier in February in Nashville, Tennessee. During the event, Nebraska Cattlemen was named the NCBA Region 7 Top Hand winner for recruiting the most members.

Daily also announced that Wine Glass Ranch of Imperial was named the 2025 national winner of the Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP), which recognizes outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of cattle producers.

He reminded attendees that Nebraska Cattlemen scholarships are currently open and provided a leg-

islative update on bills affecting the cattle industry. Daily also shared that a Nebraska Cattlemen trip to France is being planned for summer 2026 and encouraged members to explore the opportunity.

John Schroeder presented an update on the Beef Checkoff. He also expressed enthusiasm about recent changes to federal dietary guidelines that move beef and protein higher in the food pyramid recommendations.

Jobman recognized youth programs across Dawson County, including several area FFA chapters represented at the banquet. He also highlighted Dawson County 4-H's success in 2025 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Premier Animal Science Event. Members competed in three events, earning four championships and three reserve championships. The senior livestock quiz bowl team advanced to the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, placing eighth overall.

The Dawson County Cattlemen scholarship for 2026 is open to both high school and college students pursuing further education. The evening culminated with two special awards.

The Beef Ambassador Award, presented annually to a business within the county, was awarded to Merck Animal Health. Daily presented the award, noting the company was recognized not for the

products it sells, but for its commitment to giving back to the industry through donations, sponsorships and its Cartridges for Cash program. Justin Jarecke accepted the award on behalf of Merck Animal Health.

The final honor of the night was induction into the Dawson County Cattlemen Hall of Fame. Shannon Peterson presented the award to the late Barb Batie.

"Tonight we gather to honor a person whose life has been rooted in agriculture, grounded in faith, devoted to family and dedicated to telling the story of rural Nebraska with honesty, grace and heart," Peterson said.

Peterson shared Batie's lifelong involvement in Nebraska agriculture, beginning with her childhood near Battle Creek. Batie's professional journalism career began at the Tri-City Tribune, where her first assignment was covering a Dawson County Cattlemen Tour. During that tour, she interviewed Don Batie and his father at their Lexington feedyard. A few years later, Don and Barb married. They had two daughters, Juliana and Cicely.

In 2018, Batie launched her beloved "FarmHER" column in the Midwest Messenger. Throughout her career, she wrote for numerous publications and earned many honors. However, Peterson emphasized that recognition was never Batie's motivation. "Words were never

the point. Barb believed deeply in community journalism," Peterson said.

Peterson also spoke of Batie's extensive volunteer and service work and described her leadership style as servant leadership.

"She rarely sought recognition. She simply did the work," Peterson said.

Batie passed away on Christmas Day following a brief but aggressive battle with cancer.

"Today we honor Barb not only for her accomplishments, but for how she lived," Peterson said. "She lived generously. She lived fiercely. She lived faithfully. She lived agriculturally. And she loved to serve others."

Peterson concluded by calling Batie "a rare, steady voice in rural Nebraska" whose legacy lives on through the stories she told, the people she mentored and the community she strengthened.

Blair Caraway also addressed attendees about the upcoming Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, which will be hosted near Cozad on June 5-6. She encouraged members to volunteer, donate auction items or attend the event.

## Cozad Grand Generation Center

### Weekly MENU

- Thur., 2/19** Liver & Onions or Cooks Choice, Potato Chunks, Carrots, Peaches, Ice Cream
- Fri., 2/20** Brat or Hot Dog, Mac & Cheese, Sauerkraut, Tropical Fruit, Coleslaw, Brownies
- Mon., 2/23** Hamburger Bake, Gravy, Peaches, Corn, Fruit Bars
- Tues., 2/24** Chicken Enchilada, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Cookie Salad, Ice Cream
- Wed., 2/25** Pork Chop, Potato Wedges, Stuffing, Broccoli, Peach Cobbler, Ice Cream

This weeks calendar is sponsored by:

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Well done this season and  
best wishes at state!

**Eustis** BODY SHOP

## Lexington Grand Generation Center

### WEEKLY MENU

- Thur. 2/19** Orange Chicken, Wild Rice, Buttered Cali Blend Veggies, Cold Veggie Salad, Applesauce
- Fri. 2/20** Monterey Pork Chops, Baby Bakers, Roasted Cauliflower, Apricots
- Mon. 2/23** Taco Soup, Cheese Cubes, Pickled Beets, Potato Salad, Apple Slices
- Tues. 2/24** Chicken Pot Pie, Candi Yams, Hawaiian Carrots, Tropical Fruit
- Wed. 2/25** Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Boiled Potatoes, Corn, Mandarin Oranges

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# Chamber Announces 2026 Bands, Brews, and BBQs

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of Bands, Brews, and BBQs on Saturday, July 11. The annual summer celebration will once again bring a full day of food, music, competition, and community fun to Cozad.

This year's event will take place in the city parking lot at 203 East 8th Street, with additional festivities extending throughout the downtown area. The event is hosted by the Cozad Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Heather Wellman Music and Lemon Fresh Day.

Headlining the 2026 event will be Heather Wellman and Lemon Fresh Day, promising an energetic evening of live entertainment. Organizers are gearing up for another unforgettable experience filled with local vendors, delicious food, ice-cold drinks, and plenty of surprises throughout the day.

A major highlight of the event is the Official BBQ Cookoff. Teams must register by June 1. A \$100 refundable registration fee is required to secure a team's spot. The fee will be refunded when teams pick up their meat on July 10, or if they withdraw on or before June 11. Teams that fail to pick up meat during the designated time will forfeit their deposit.

Meat pickup will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. on Friday, July 10. Cooking must be completed by 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, with judging beginning at that time. Serving to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m., and winners will be announced that evening.

Teams will compete in pulled pork, brisket, and beans categories. Cash prizes will be awarded for

first, second, and third place in each category, with payouts up to \$100 for meat categories and a grand prize of \$500 plus a trophy for the overall winner. Five free event tickets will be provided to each team for team members only.

Cooking must be done on site using a charcoal grill, wood-fired device, or wood pellet grill.

Additional rules and regulations are available through the Chamber. Vendor registration is now open, and local businesses and artisans are encouraged to participate in the Market in the Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Veterans Park.

Those interested in becoming vendors or entering the BBQ competition can register online at [cozadchamber.com](http://cozadchamber.com). Completed registration forms

must be returned to the Cozad Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 121 West 9th Street, Suite E, Cozad.

Bands, Brews, and BBQ's is open to the public and welcomes anyone on or off Facebook to attend. Organizers encourage the community to mark their calendars and stay tuned for updates on vendors, grillers, ticket sales, and additional event details.

For more information, contact the Cozad Area Chamber of Commerce at 308-784-3930 or email [cozadchamber@cozadtel.net](mailto:cozadchamber@cozadtel.net).



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# City Wide Clean Up

LIZ ROMERO

The City of Cozad will host its annual City Wide Clean Up from March 2-6, providing residents an opportunity to dispose of large household items that cannot be placed in regular dumpsters.

Residents are encouraged to stop by the City Office, 215 West 8th Street, Cozad, to pick up the required disposal tags. Please note that no tags will be issued after 4 p.m. on Feb. 27.

During Clean Up Week, the city will accept appliances including washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves, freezers, and air conditioners, as well as tires, computer monitors, and furniture that is too large for the tan dumpster.

For additional information, residents may contact the office at 308-784-3907.

The City of Cozad encourages residents to take advantage of this opportunity to safely and responsibly dispose of large household items.

**CITY OF COZAD**  
is taking Applications for Employment  
for the following jobs:  
•Pool Manager • Assistant Pool Manager • Lifeguards •  
• Basket Personnel • Park Caretakers •

Applications may be picked up at the City Office  
located at 215 West 8th Street,  
Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4 pm.  
Deadline to apply is March 31, 2026.

\* Park Caretakers must be 18 in order to apply.

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# COZAD

## Hasbrouck, Hueftle Win District Titles Three Haymakers Advance to State

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Haymakers qualified three wrestlers for the state tournament on Saturday at the NSAA Class C District 4 meet in Broken Bow. Wyatt Hueftle, Drake Hasbrouck, and Jaden Rodriguez each earned a trip to Omaha with strong performances in their weight classes.

Hueftle (106) captured the district title after he pinned Kyler Mills (Bridgeport) in 1:23 and followed with another fall over Cale Rogers (Kearney Catholic). In the championship match, Hueftle secured a 13-7 decision over Dylan Miscles (Chase County) to finish first.

Hasbrouck (144) also claimed a district championship, dominating his bracket. He opened with a 16-0 tech fall over Dallas Hutchings (Chadron) in 1:34, then pinned Chase Brady (Ogallala) and Riley Keeler (North Bend Central) in the quarterfinals and semifinals. Hasbrouck capped his run with a 9-4 decision over Gavin Cheek (Mitchell) in the title match.

Rodriguez (285) placed third to earn his state berth. He posted an 18-1 tech fall over Wyatt Blomekamp (Mitchell) in the quarterfinals. Following a semifinal loss, Rodriguez battled through the consolation bracket with a 10-2 major decision over Fletcher Stewart (Chadron) and a huge decision win of 1-0 against Jaydon Trejo (Ord) in the third-place match.

Several other Haymakers competed at districts. Kenneth Hernandez (132) won a 4-1 decision over Reid Wahlgren (Gothenburg) in the consolation round before dropping a 7-6 tiebreaker. Brenner Thayer (157), Landon Baker (165), and Brantley Malcom (175) each recorded a bye in the consolation bracket but did not advance.

Marcus Ruano (215) rebounded from a quarterfinal loss with back-to-back falls over Grayson Mitchell (Bridgeport) and A.J. Holsten (Gothenburg) before falling 2-0 in the consolation semifinals.



**ABOVE:** District Champion Wyatt Hueftle, 106 pounds, pinned Kyler Mills of Bridgeport in his opening match at the district tournament on Feb. 14. **BELOW:** District Champion Drake Hasbrouck (144) opened the NSAA Class C-4 tournament Feb. 14 with a dominant 16-0 technical fall over Dallas Hutchings of Chadron. **LEFT:** Jaden Rodriguez (285) secured third place in a tough bracket at NSAA Class C-4 tournament on Feb. 14 with a decision win against Jayden Trejo of Ord. (LOCAL Photos by Barry Mraz)



# SPORTS

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## Building More Than Teams The Lasting Impact of Coach Nick Broz

LIZ ROMERO

Cozad's Nick Broz has been named one of 28 recipients of the 2025-26 NSAA Champions for Coaches Award, recognizing his dedication to students, athletics, and the broader community.

Broz, now in his sixth season as head coach of the Haymakers and with 22 years of coaching experience, has steadily built the program into a consistent winner. Since taking over



in 2020, the team has grown from an 8-16 record in his first season to this season's 21-2 record, with the season still going. Along the way, Cozad captured Southwest Conference and District Championships and earned a spot in the Class C-1 State Tournament. Broz currently holds an 82-

46 record with the Haymakers and reached a career milestone of 200 wins in February 2023, now totaling 269 career victories.

Beyond wins and losses, Broz emphasizes character development and life lessons for his players. His wife, Candace, shared, "Nick has always believed that coaching isn't just about the wins and losses or basketball, it's about shaping them into young men, building character, and teaching them life lessons. He teaches responsibility, accountability, and dependability. Our family thinks of each team as family and loves seeing these boys grow into young men over the years from youth basketball to graduation."

Broz's impact extends beyond high school basketball through his work with the Cozad Basketball Club, a youth program he founded that now hosts more than 90 boys' and girls' teams each December, drawing over 750 young athletes to Cozad. The program not only provides game experience but also contributes to the local economy as visiting families support area businesses. Funds raised through the club are reinvested into youth development, covering tournament fees, jerseys, and travel costs, while his high school players serve as mentors, helping younger athletes grow on and off the court.

Alisa Favinger, a fellow teacher, wrote in her nomination letter, "Coach Nick Broz exemplifies what it means to be an educator-coach: someone who builds programs, invests in youth, strengthens community ties, and creates lasting opportunities well beyond the scoreboard. He is highly deserving of recogni-

tion for his tireless efforts and lasting impact on Cozad and the surrounding area."

The Champions for Coaches recipients will be recognized during halftime of the Class B Boys State Basketball Semifinal at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 13, at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln.



Let's Go Haymakers  
Good Luck at  
Sub Districts!

**CTC**  
COZAD TELEPHONE COMPANY

# Haymakers Pull Away for Road Win over Broken Bow

LIZ ROMERO



Chayden Hoffmaster

The Cozad Haymakers traveled to Broken Bow on Thursday, Feb. 12, and came home with a decisive 69-44 win over the Indians.

Cozad set the tone early, taking a 12-9 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Haymakers built momentum in the second, outscoring Broken Bow to extend their advantage to 28-17 at halftime.

The offense continued to click in the third quarter as Cozad added 24 points while holding the Indians to 15. The Haymakers closed out the game with a strong fourth quarter to secure the 25-point victory.

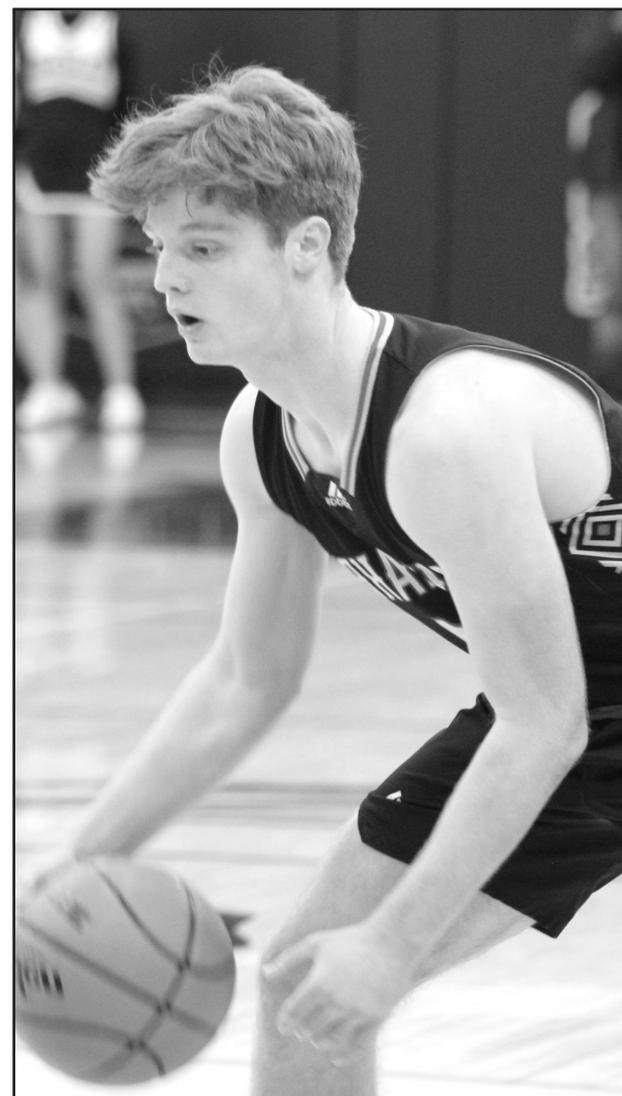
Kellen Shoemaker led the scoring effort with 23 points. He also went 2-for-2 at the free-throw line, dished out 4 assists, and recorded 6 steals.

Chayden Hoffmaster followed with 20 points, including 2 shots from beyond the arc. He added 6 rebounds, a steal, and an assist.

Ollie Davis finished with 14 points and contributed across the stat sheet with 8 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals.

Ethan Atchison added 5 points, while Julien Davis, Gage Strauss and Owen Ross each scored 2.

(LOCAL Photos by Jennifer Walls)



Kellen Shoemaker

**GOOD LUCK Girl's Basketball at Sub Districts!**



**CS Cozad Services Inc.**

315 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
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**Good Luck to our Lady Haymakers at Sub Districts!**



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# Eight Medals Highlight Big Day for CHS Speech

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

The Cozad High School Speech Team competed in the highly touted Blue and Gold Speech Invite held at North Platte High School on Saturday, Feb. 14. There were 27 teams entered in the invite from Class A, B, C, and D schools. The team is coached by Head Coach Woody Blackmore, assisted by Yanira Rodriguez and Omar Carlos.

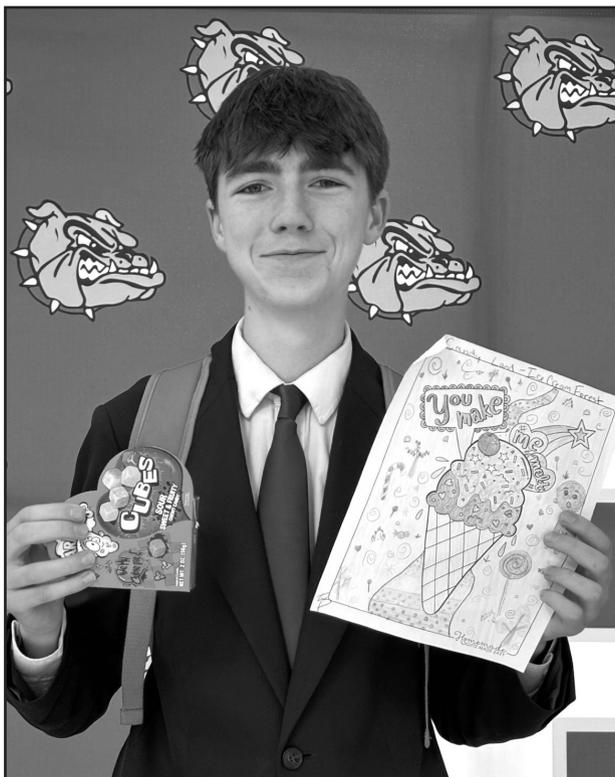
Camryn Yilk continued her quest for excellence during her senior campaign by capturing the seventh-place medal in varsity poetry and the 10th-place medal in Program of Oral Interpretation.

Senior Talyn Propp was also a double medal winner at the invite, garnering the fifth-place medal with his original varsity entertainment entry and teaming up with senior Ava Joyce for a fourth-place medal in varsity duet acting.

Sophomore Raiden Heuck was awarded the 11th-place medal for his varsity extemporaneous speech.

Freshmen Rebecca Burns and Adeline Joyce continued their winning ways as they were awarded first-place medals in novice duet acting with their entry, "Ditzies." The dynamic duo also placed first at the Gothenburg Speech Meet on Feb. 7 and second at the Lexington Speech Invite and the two Central Nebraska Forensics League speech meets.

Four events were performed for the Rotarians at their Tuesday, Feb. 10 meeting, including Crystal Hernandez, informative; Talyn Propp, entertainment; Camryn Yilk, serious prose; and



CHS senior Talyn Propp continues to impress the judges with his varsity entertainment entry that he composed himself. Talyn captured the fifth-place medal at the Blue and Gold Speech Invite held at North Platte High School on Saturday, Feb. 14. (Photos Courtesy of Yanira Rodriguez)



Cozad High School freshmen speech team members Adeline Joyce and Rebecca Burns received first place medals at the Blue and Gold Speech Invite held in North Platte on Saturday, Feb. 14. Their novice duet acting entry, "Ditzies" has placed first or second in every meet.

Rebecca Burns and Adeline Joyce, duet acting.

Nine team members will be traveling to Cheyenne, Wyoming, Feb. 19-21 to compete in the National Qualifying Hole in the Wall District Meet, including seniors Elliott Blackmore,

Crystal Hernandez, Ava Joyce, and Talyn Propp; junior Chandler Kaup; and sophomores Marley Fochtman, Raiden Heuck, and Katelynn Williamson.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

19 Thur	20 Fri	21 Sat	22 Sun	23 Mon	24 Tues	25 Wed
Boys State Wrestling Girls BB Sub Districts Away 6:30PM Boys BB Home Speech NSDA Nationals Quals. 4-7PM Sip & Shop @ Rustic & Red	No School 11AM Storytime @ WPL Boys State Wrestling Speech NSDA Nationals Quals.	Boys State Wrestling Speech NSDA Nationals Quals.		10AM Free Groceries @ GGC 7PM City Council FFA CDE #3 FCCLA Peer Ed. Conf. TBA Boys BB Sub Dist. Away	TBA Boys BB Sub Districts Away	10AM Free Groceries @ GGC
  						



# Life in the Margins The Habit I Can't Seem to Quit

When you were a child, did you ever feel left out?

Maybe it was a birthday party everyone else got invited to but you. The sleepover you heard about on Monday morning. The playground game where you stood waiting, hoping not to be picked last.

I knew that feeling well.

Before I graduated from high school, we moved 22 times. I was almost always the new kid. On Mondays, I listened as classmates laughed about parties and sleepovers I hadn't known about. At lunch, I often sat alone hoping for someone to include me.

Sports didn't help. I never stayed anywhere long enough to join a team, and I wasn't especially athletic. In P.E., I braced myself to hear my name called last. When I finally tried out for volleyball my junior year, I played on the JV team. I was grateful to play and be part of the team, but I felt a step behind the varsity girls who seemed to belong so naturally to one another.

I share this as a pity party. I share it because I've been thinking about what it feels like to live on the fringes, to hover at the edge of conversations, and to exist in the margins.

It's unsettling not to understand the inside jokes. It's exhausting to wonder how to fit in. Sometimes it's lonely. Sometimes it's scary.

And yet, the moments of inclusion shine in my memory like rays of golden sunlight. A seat saved. A name remembered. An invitation extended. Those small gestures carried enormous

## Roxanne Converse-Whiting



weight.

As an adult, I recognize my privilege. I am an educated white woman who has lived in the same community for almost 30 years. Most days, I belong easily. But every now and then, I am reminded how good it feels to be around like-minded people. It warms my heart to be welcomed, to be seen, to know someone thought to save me a seat at the table.

We often say we don't like what's unfamiliar. But maybe it's not dislike. Maybe it's discomfort. Maybe it's fear of what we don't understand.

And when someone new enters a space, when a minority voice is included in the party, it can unsettle the majority. It can feel like the balance has shifted.

In a perfect world, everyone would belong all the time. In this imperfect one, perhaps we can aim for something smaller but powerful: understanding when we feel left out, celebration when someone else is chosen, and compassion for those who live in the margins.

Because someone always does.

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**Good Luck to our Lady Haymakers at Sub Districts!**

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## Ben Hanna Leads CMS to State with Top-Four Finish

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT



Lucy Hanna, Ben Hanna, Maison Larsen, Tucker Brill, and LikeMe Shirai. Not pictured - Katie Hyatt. (Courtesy Photos)

MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school mathematics competition that builds problem-solving skills and fosters achievement through four levels of fun, in-person, “bee”-style contests. Founded in 1983, MATHCOUNTS has held local, chapter, state, and national competitions that bring together middle school students to compete and showcase their math skills. The program highlights some of the brightest middle school minds in a series of challenging math tests.

MATHCOUNTS is designed to inspire students to engage in extracurricular math activities and competitions, with the National Society of Professional Engineers serving as the title sponsor.

Although MATHCOUNTS has been around for years, Cozad just started a local chapter this year and competed for the first time on Feb. 9 at the Midstate Regional Competition at UNK. The team achieved success during its first appearance. A total of 150 students from 21 schools competed at the regional competition.

The team, coached by middle school math teacher Alisa Favinger, placed third, qualifying for the state competition, which will be held March 21 at UNL. Team members competing were Ben Hanna, Maison Larsen, LikeMe Shirai, and Katie Hyatt. Tucker Brill and Lucy Hanna are also members of the Cozad MATHCOUNTS Club, and Tucker competed individually at UNK.

Ben Hanna had a stellar performance, placing fourth out of the 150 competitors. Additionally, Maison Larsen placed in the top 25 percent of those taking the test.

## Geiger Claims Top Honors at Spelling Bee

KRYSTLE RHOADES, CORRESPONDENT



Ivy Russell, Braylee Carlson, and Mallory Geiger.

The words began at a first-grade level, but they quickly increased in difficulty during the annual Hershel Olson Family Memorial Spelling Bee at Cozad Middle School on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Nine students qualified to showcase their spelling skills. After several rounds, 6th grader Mallory Geiger earned the first-place spot and will go on to represent the school at the state spelling bee in Omaha this spring.

Alongside Geiger, 8th grader Braylee Carlson took second place, and 6th grader Ivy Russell earned third place honors.

The other qualifying students were Max Bazata, Kasen Yilk, Elizabeth Moo, Chloe Russell, Santiago Casillas, and Kamrynn Rhoades.

The annual event was made possible through the generous support of Joel Carlson, who sponsored prizes for the winners. Middle school media specialist Jennifer Walls coordinates the competition, and Jann Kloeping served as the word reader for the competition.

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# Legals

## Notice

### REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works was held at the Council Chamber on February 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Present: Young, Sladek, and Jacob. Absent: Neill. Also present: Electric Commissioner Chris White, Water Commissioner Troy Franzen, Council Member Howerter. Mayor Also preset Robin Geiser. 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 Jacob, seconded by Sladek to waive the formal reading for the minutes held on January 3, 2025, and approve as presented/amend the minutes to read: The Board voted as follows: Aye: Young, Jacob, and Sladek. Nay: None Motion adopted. The Board discussed Monthly Activities. Commissioner White reported working on the cell tower. Tree trimming is done this month, and they presented for Maker Fair. Motion was made by Sladek, seconded by Jacob to accept JEO as the engineer for the Cozad Electrical Grid Resiliency Project. The Board voted as follows: Aye: Young, Jacob, and Sladek. Nay: None Motion adopted. Commissioner Franzen discussed state funding for lead line replacement, and the board would like him to get the application for the SRF on the project. Motion was made by Sladek, seconded by Jacob to recommend the Midlands bid to council for the 12th Street water main project. The board voted as follows: Aye: Young,

Jacob, and Sladek. Nay: None Motion adopted. 222 HARDWARE-su-202.77, ARK I CEI Holdco, LLC-su-24101.34, AT & T MOBILITY-se-328.83, AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS CO-su-1260.00, BAVCO-su-1822.53, BIG RED SUPPLY & RENTAL-se-177.90, CITY OF COZAD-ins-29477.42, CITY OF COZAD RETIREMENT-ins-7414.70, CITY OF COZAD-TRANSFER OF FUND-tf-37822.06, COUNTRY PARTNERS COOPERATIVE-fu-659.66, COZAD TELEPHONE COMPANY-se-749.32, CULLIGAN-su-39.84, DAWSON PEST CONTROL-se-55.11, DUTTON-LAINSON CO-su-1046.70, HOMETOWN LEASING-se-185.26, HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT SERVICE-se-1103.23, HYDRO OPTIMIZATION & AUTOMATION SOLUTION-se-757.00, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE-ex-17103.17, JACK'S WELDING, LLC-se-565.50, JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC-se-2460.00, KUB-WATER RESOURCES, INC-su-7820.24, LUIS NUNEZ-se-275.00, MEAD BUILDING CENTERS-su-192.60, MIDWEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - e x - 9 0 0 . 0 0 , MILLER & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENG-se-23400.00, NE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE-ex-33331.64, NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LABS-se-301.00, NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT-su-253408.13, NEOLINK-se- 489.20, ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC-se-79.96, PONY EXPRESS CHEVROLET BUICK-ex-56101.00, POWERMANAGER-se-8966.39, PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT-se-52.52, ROOSTER GARAGE DOORS-se-197.50, SONNY'S SUPER FOODS, INC-ex-11.36, SYNDICATE PUBLISHING LLC-ex-184.35, TOP NOTCH AUTO & MOE'S GRAPHIX-se-335.34, TURNER TECHNOLOGY-se-1973.47, TYE & ROWLING, PC LLO-ex-3844.56, U.S. POSTAL SERVICE-se-370.00, UNITECH INC-se-700.00, UPS - 326.83,

USABlueBOOK-su-884.77, VESTIS-se-233.10, WESCO DISTRIBUTION, INC-su-3358.53, Total - 527579.29 Payroll total- \$54132.36 Motion was made by Sladek, seconded by Jacob to approve the bills as presented. The board voted as follows: Aye: Sladek, Jacob, and Young. Nay: None. Motion adopted. Motion was made by Jacob, seconded by Sladek, to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted as follows: Aye: Sladek, Jacob, and Young. Nay: None Motion adopted. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

Chairman Young

Feb. 19, 2026  
(141) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF

#### 3 BANDANAS BAKERY, LLC

Notice is hereby given of the organization of 3 Bandanas Bakery, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company. The name of the company is 3 Bandanas Bakery, LLC. The street and mailing address of the initial designated office of the company is 720 10th Street, Gothenburg, Nebraska 69138. The initial agent for service of process of the company and its street and mailing address is Antonia M. Mendez, 720 10th Street, Gothenburg, Nebraska 69138.

Dated: January 22, 2026.

By: Antonia M. Mendez,  
Organizer

By: Noe N. Mendez, Organizer  
Prepared by:  
Galen E. Stehlik, #15578  
Stehlik Law Firm P.C., L.L.O  
724 West Koenig Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
Telephone: (308) 675-4035  
Fax: (308) 6754038  
Email: galen.stehlik@stehliklawfirm.com

Feb. 5, 2026  
Feb. 12, 2026  
Feb. 19, 2026  
(30) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF MEETING

Public Notice is hereby given that a meeting will be held by the Cozad Planning Commission on Monday, March 2nd, 2026 at 12:00 pm at the Cozad City Office located at 215 West 8th Street. The meeting has been scheduled to make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council on the approval of the installation of a wireless communication tower at the Southeast Quarter of Section 31, Township 11 North, Range 23 West of the 6th P.M., Dawson County, Nebraska.

Chairman,  
Adam Boryca

Feb. 19, 2026  
(19) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bazata Insurance Agency, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, has amended its street and mailing address of the registered agent for service of process and the initial designated office of the company to the following: Davis Law, LLC, 729 Meridian Ave., PO Box 263, Cozad, NE 69130.

Bazata Insurance Agency, Inc.  
By: Brian J. Davis, #22884  
of Davis Law, LLC  
729 Meridian Ave, PO Box 263  
Cozad, Nebraska 69130  
T: 308.784.4880  
F: 308.784.4881

Feb. 5, 2026  
Feb. 12, 2026  
Feb. 19, 2026  
(18) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Haymaker Mills, LLC., a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with the initial agent for service of process being Levi Messersmith, whose address, which is also the registered

and designated office is 715 W. Railroad St., Cozad, Nebraska 69130.

Haymaker Mills, LLC  
By Brian J. Davis, #22884  
Of Davis Law, LLC  
729 Meridian Ave, PO Box 263  
Cozad, Nebraska 69130  
T: 308.784.4880  
F: 308.784.4881

Feb. 19, 2026  
Feb. 26, 2026  
March 5, 2026  
(19) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

**OF MCNALLY AG & AUTO, LLC**  
Company shall engage in any lawful business for which a company may be formed under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. Perpetual existence commenced February 10, 2026, when the Certificate of Organization was filed with the Secretary of State. Affairs are to be conducted by the Members of the Company as set forth in the Operating Agreement.

DESIGNATED OFFICE:  
76050 Rd. 424  
Cozad, NE 69130  
REGISTERED AGENT:  
Julianna S. Jenkins  
425 S. 7th Ave  
PO Box 326  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Feb. 19, 2026  
Feb. 26, 2026  
March 5, 2026  
(22) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF MEETING COZAD DISTRICT NO. 2 HOSPITAL BOARD DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Cozad District No. 2 Hospital Board of Dawson County, Cozad, Nebraska, will be held at 7:00 a. m., on Tuesday, February 26, 2026, at Cozad Community Hospital Conference Room, 300 E. 12th Street, Cozad, NE 69130, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such

meeting kept continually current is available for public inspection at Cozad Hospital offices.

Linda Benjamin,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Cozad District No. 2  
Hospital District

Feb. 19, 2026  
(19) znez

## Notice

### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Cozad, Nebraska, by Resolution No. 2026-3 adopted on February 2, 2026, has authorized the sale of the following described real property located in Dawson County, Nebraska, to Marcus D. Young III and Brynn Young, to wit: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, of Block 4, Airport Addition to the City of Cozad, Dawson County, Nebraska.

Conveyance of the said tract of real estate shall be by Warranty Deed, upon payment of a consideration of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to the City for said tract. Said sale will be completed thirty (30) days from and after the approval and publication, in pamphlet form of Resolution No. 2026-3, namely: from February 3, 2026, unless an objection of remonstrance to such sale, signed by legal electors thereof equal in number to thirty percent (30%) of the electors of the City voting at the last regular municipal election be filed with the City Clerk on or before March 5, 2026. By order of the City Council of the City of Cozad, Nebraska, February 2, 2026.

MARCUS KLOEPPING  
MAYOR  
ATTEST:  
BRANDI KLOEPPING  
CITY CLERK

Feb. 12, 2026  
Feb. 19, 2026  
Feb. 26, 2026  
(42) znez

# Dawson County Court Report

**Nwokeji.Ikechukwu.U**  
Speeding 11-15 MPH Inter-  
state | Guilty | \$125 fine

**Daniels.Kaiya.M**  
Assault-Bodily Injury/  
Mutual C | Guilty | \$250 fine

**Borbona Carbajal.Jeiler**  
Drive during revocation/  
impoun | Guilty | 10 days jail,  
90 days probation

**Favela.Alejandro**  
Speeding 21-35 MPH  
Municipal | Guilty | 57 days  
probation  
No operator's license/  
non-waiv | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Mohamed.Haroun.Hassan**  
Criminal Trespass-2nd  
Degree | Guilty | 6 days jail

**Arredondo.Jose.A**  
Animals running at large |  
Guilty | \$25 fine

**Sherard.Scott.J**  
Possess marijuana 1 oz or  
less | Guilty | \$300 fine  
Possess or use drug para. |  
Guilty | \$100 fine

**Mercedo Alvarez.Miriam.D**  
No operator's license/  
waiverable | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Gonzalez Chong.Steven**  
Leave accident-fail to  
furnish | Guilty | \$200 fine  
No operator's license/  
non-waiv | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Elliott.Kristen.Janan**  
Assault-Cause Bodily  
Injury | Guilty | 12 months  
probation

**Saldivar Esquivel.Cristin**  
Dangerous dog | Guilty  
Animals running at large |  
Guilty  
Unimmunized dog or cat |  
Guilty

**Lewis.Dylan.Anthony**  
Minor in possession - under  
19 | Guilty | \$210 fine  
Possess marijuana 1 oz or  
less | Guilty | \$300 fine

**Bulle.Farhiya.A**  
Misuse learner's permit  
(LPD) | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Urdaneta Mayor.Angel.D**  
No operator's license/  
non-waiv | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Ibrahim.Gulled.E**  
Careless driving | Guilty |  
\$100 fine

**Espinola-Cervantes.Miguel**  
Assault-Bodily injury/  
Mutual C | Guilty | \$250 fine

**Malcom.Maddux.G**  
Speeding 11-15 MPH  
Municipal | Guilty | \$125 fine

**Ramirez Rodriguez.Gabino**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$75 fine  
No operator's license/  
waiverable | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Schwanz.Kelsey**  
Theft-shoplifting \$0-500 |  
Guilty | \$200 fine

**Soto Ortiz.Fatima**  
Theft-shoplifting \$0-500 |  
Guilty | \$200 fine

**Trent.Jacob.Elijah**  
Violate hunting/fishing  
regular | Guilty | \$100 fine

**Brown.Terrie.L**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$25 fine  
No operator's license |  
Guilty | \$75 fine

**Smith.Kenneth.L**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$75 fine

**McCurdy.Issak.Scott**  
Minor in possession - under  
19 | Guilty | \$210 fine  
Speeding 21-35 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$300  
fine

**Adams.Ambrosia.Reiden**  
Possess or use drug  
paraphernalia | Guilty | \$100  
fine  
Possess marijuana 1 oz or  
less | Guilty | \$300 fine

**Gerberth Alexander.Guerra**  
No operator's license/  
waiverable | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Garcia.Sup.Erikson.N**  
No operator's license/  
waiverable | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Gonzalez Vazquez.Jorge.L**  
Speeding 11-15 MPH Inter-  
state | Guilty | \$125 fine

**Skrtech.Jordan.P**  
Speeding 11-15 MPH  
County/State | Guilty | \$125  
fine

**Pano.Yesinia.Anastashia**  
Drive during revocation/  
impound | Guilty | 10 days  
jail, 90 days probation

**Costello.Patrick.J**  
Speeding 21-35 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$300  
fine

**Clark.Bradley.A**  
Drive during revocation/  
impound | Guilty | 10 days  
jail, 90 days probation

**Morris.Kristian.M**  
Poss (meth)amphetamine  
28-139g | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess firearm while  
commit felony | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess money while  
violate 28 | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess or use drug  
paraphernalia | Preliminary  
Hearing  
Waived

**Moon.  
Maurice.  
Eugene**  
Speeding  
16-20 MPH  
Interstate |  
Guilty | \$200  
fine  
Possess  
marijuana 1 oz  
or less | Guilty  
| \$300 fine

**Juarez Lopez.Manuel**  
DUI-.08 breath-1st offense |  
Guilty | \$500 fine, 6 months  
probation

**Marsh.Michael.J**  
Poss (meth)amphetamine  
28-139g | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess firearm by  
prohibited | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess firearm while  
commit felony | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess money while  
violate 28 | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess or use drug  
paraphernalia | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived

**Hoerler.Samantha.J**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Perez.Jose.A.Jr**  
Speeding 11-15 MPH Inter-  
state | Guilty | \$125 fine

**Rios Macias.Oscar.A**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Clodfelter.Angela.M**  
Speeding 16-20 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$200  
fine

**Weddle.James.J**  
Speeding 11-15 MPH Inter-  
state | Guilty | \$125 fine

**Duran.Jessica.M**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Bonta.Jaylee.L**  
Speeding 06-10 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Arrivillage Ramos.Brallan**  
No operator's license/  
waiverable | Guilty | \$75 fine

**Ray.Jeremy**  
Speeding 21-35 MPH  
Interstate | Guilty | \$300  
fine

**Sanchez-Veliz.Keivi.J**  
Poss w/intent cocaine  
10-27 g | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess firearm while  
commit felony | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess controlled  
substance | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Carry Concealed Weapon  
Prohib | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived  
Possess marijuana 1 oz or  
less | Preliminary Hearing  
Waived

**Wright.Matracia.F**  
Sexual Assault of a  
Child-1st | Preliminary  
Hearing Waived

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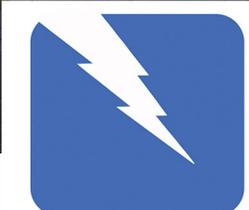


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info@vvscanteen.com | vvscanteen.com



# Classifieds

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**FLASH ELECTRIC**  
**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

## FOR RENT/SALE

**FOR RENT** in Cozad. Two room office space for rent at 201 W. 8th St. Contact Justin Standage with questions or to apply. 308-325-4229.

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**FOR SALE** - CELL PHONE SWITCH AND save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-877-768-5892

## CAREERS

**SUMMER HELP** wanted for the City of Cozad. Pool Manager, Assistant Pool Manager, Lifeguards, Basket Personnel, Park Caretakers. Apply at the city office. Applications closed March 31st, 2026.

**JEFFERSON COMMUNITY** Health & Life, Fairbury, Neb., seeking full-time behavioral health therapist for growing program. Requires mental health therapist or family and marriage therapist; 2 years experience; Master's degree preferred. Competitive salary and benefits. Apply online at <https://www.jchealthandlife.org/careers/> For more information contact Sandy Bauer, HR, at 402-729-6850.

**RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST** for Jefferson Community Health & Life, Fairbury, Neb., inpatient and outpatient services. On call requires 30-minute response. Competitive salary, benefits. Apply online at <https://www.jchealthandlife.org/careers/> For more information contact Sandy Bauer, HR, at 402-729-6850.

## BUSINESS

**\$0.40 PER** word, run your classified in the Cozad LOCAL today! \$10 minimum.

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING** works! Place your 25 word ad into thousands of Nebraska homes for \$225. Contact your local newspaper or call 1-800-369-2850.

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## Explore Career Opportunities

We are committed to leveraging our unparalleled passion and innovative culture to serve the various communities in our area, optimizing access to quality healthcare in a rural setting.

- Chief Financial Officer
- Prior Authorization & Credentialing Specialist
- Acute RN  
\$5,000 Sign-On Bonus
- Acute LPN  
Day Shift
- Foot Care/Population Health Nurse
- Director of Acute Nursing  
\$20,000 Sign-On Bonus
- Perioperative Circulating RN  
PRN

Last updated on February 10, 2026

# Game Page

5	7			3	2			8
1		9			6			
	4	2						
		8						7
	9		5					
2			6		9			
4			1				8	3
					3	4		
			2	5				7

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13			14				15		
16					17			18			19		
20							21				22		
				23		24				25			
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33								34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43				
				44	45			46					
	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

Weekly Crossword is sponsored by:



122 E. 7th Street  
Cozad, NE 69130  
308-784-4044  
cozadtel.net

- 49. Thick piece of something
- 50. Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
- 51. Removed from the record
- 56. Legendary singer Turner
- 57. Broke up the earth
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. Contributes
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Wreckage on the sea bed
- 62. Affirmative! (slang)
- 63. Witness
- 64. Scrape (Archaic)
- 26. Queens ballplayer
- 27. Consumed
- 28. Rest here please
- 29. Men's fashion accessory
- 35. American time
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. They \_\_\_
- 38. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 40. Places to play video games
- 41. A sudden attack of illness
- 42. When you hope to arrive
- 43. Charges
- 44. Actress Seyfried
- 45. A tributary of the Ohio River

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. \_ and flows
- 2. Humble request for help
- 3. A position of leadership
- 4. Continent
- 5. Adherent of a particular religion
- 6. Things that can be eaten
- 7. Self-governing Netherlands territory
- 8. Long-tailed crow
- 9. Repeated
- 10. Bluish greens
- 11. Humanities
- 13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
- 17. Labor (Spanish)
- 24. Zero
- 25. Shared by involving three parties

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Unit of dry measure
- 5. One who defies authority
- 8. Social media giant
- 12. Render holy
- 14. Much \_\_\_ about nothing
- 15. Computer manufacturer
- 16. Creed
- 18. Immoral act
- 19. Mountain pass
- 20. Winged nut
- 21. Don't know when yet
- 22. Elected officials
- 23. Corrupt tendencies
- 26. Popular adult beverage
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Morally correct
- 32. Type of whale
- 33. Portable conical tent
- 34. Native people of the Congo
- 39. More (Spanish)
- 42. Classroom implements
- 44. Cognizant of
- 46. One who tells
- 47. Free from bondage



**What was the name of Waypoint Bank, before it changed in 2017?**

**SOLUTIONS 02-12-2026**

1	2	4	9	3	5	6	7	8
5	7	8	6	4	1	2	9	3
6	3	9	7	8	2	1	5	4
9	6	2	5	7	3	8	4	1
4	5	7	2	1	8	3	6	9
8	1	3	4	9	6	5	2	7
2	4	1	3	5	9	7	8	6
3	9	5	8	6	7	4	1	2
7	8	6	1	2	4	9	3	5

P	A	C	K			D	E	C		A	S	A	P		
A	G	A	I	N		R	A	H		R	H	E	A		
P	A	R	S	E	C	I	R	A		A	R	O	W		
P	R	E	S	T	O	N	F	L		B	I	N	S		
				T	O	T	A	L	I	T	I	E	S		
C	A	R	O	L	E	R		A	C	O	C	K			
P	R	U	D	E	R	Y		P	E	N					
M	E	E	D	S						A	S	S	U	R	
				O	C	A		M	A	L	A	I	S	E	
			S	A	M	A	R		E	P	I	G	R	A	M
			G	E	N	E	R	A	L	I	S	T			
C	L	A	D			A	P	E		E	I	G	H	T	H
H	E	B	E			C	A	M		S	E	E	S	A	W
I	D	E	A			A	H	A			S	E	I	N	E
P	E	E	N			S	O	N			S	A	K	I	



100 E 8th St.  
Cozad, NE

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

**GOAT, PG**

**Wuthering Heights, R**

**I Can Only Imagine 2, PG**

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**SOLUTION 2-12-2026**



2-12-26 Answer:

Q: Year Collins Automotive opened. A: 2005

# Young Sailors Take Stage to Sail the Seven Seas

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

The kindergarten and first grade students showcased their energy and talents as they performed separate programs on Feb. 10, in the CHS auditorium. "Sailing the Seven Seas" was the theme for both programs, and the audience was transported to seas and oceans throughout the evening.

Elementary music teacher Senja Stephens directed the program, with lights and sound provided by Kyle Vincent and Mercedes Guerra.

The four kindergarten classes took the stage and began their program with "Adventure Away". Their second selection, "Charlie Over the Ocean".

"1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive" was followed by an interpretive scarf dance performed by Linnea Rascon, Lily Kollars, Ellie Keating, Brooks Stortenbecker, Crew Ong, Emree Earl, Baylor Edeal, Luke Maack, Oliver Allen, Presley Paulsen, Emily Zimbelman, and Adrian Razo Sabillon to "The

Aquarium" from French Romantic composer Camille Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals.

The students, who followed cue's from Stephens, rounded out their program with "Long-Legged Sailor", "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean", "Down in the Deep Blue Sea", and "My Friends in the Sea".

The four first grade classes began their program with "Adventure Away", followed by "Down in the Deep Blue Sea", and "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean".

"I'se the B'y", a traditional Newfoundland folk song meaning "I'm the boy who builds the boat", featured dancing pairs Kenzie Sladek and Lauren Stithem, Dean Wolfe and Matthew Mancia-Peñaflor, Arlin Morris and Lincoln Kaup, Lennyx Wilkins and Kodi Ahlenstorf, Leamus Alejandro and Knox Standage, and MaKenna Hendricksen and Hailey Swartwood.

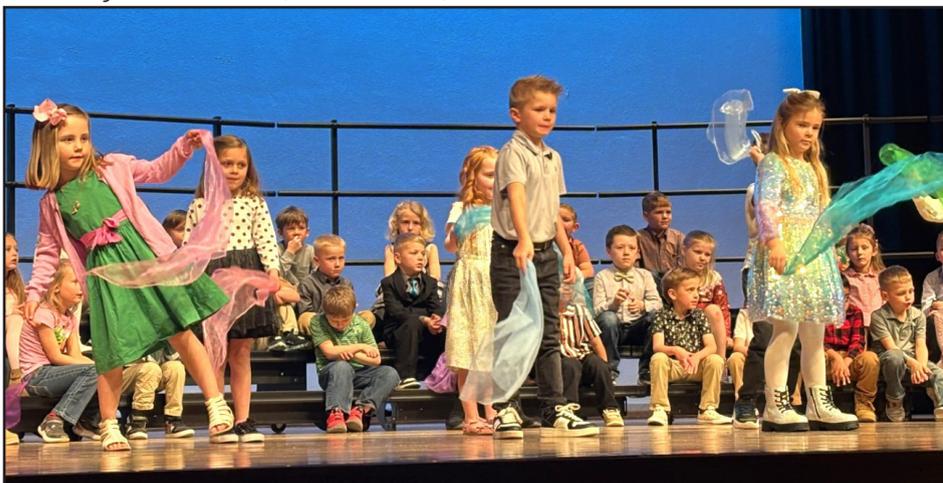
"Sail Away" and "Stinky Pirates" were then performed, with the students fully engaged in the pirate choreography.

A highlight of the first-grade performance was "Captain Robert Kray". Hudson Cote portrayed the captain, wearing an eye patch and brandishing a plastic sword. Motley crew members, also brandishing plastic swords with parrots on their shoulders, were portrayed by Janna Rhoades, Grayson Gerken, Grayson Hans, Andrew Lewis, and Emma Ventura. Providing accompaniment with colorful boomwhackers were Hayzlee Cullers, Janna Rhoades, Grayson Gerken, Grayson Hans, Andrew Lewis, and Emma Ventura.

The final selection had both students and audience engaged in "How Do You Talk Like a Pirate?"



**ABOVE:** Kindergarteners Owen Widick and Aribell Richardson performed solos in "Charlie Over the Ocean." **BELOW:** Performing a scarf interpretive dance to "The Aquarium" were 12 kindergarten students. (LOCAL Photos)



**ABOVE:** Kenzie Sladek and Lauren Stithem danced to "I'se the B'y" during the first graders program. **BELOW:** First Grader Captain Hudson Cote (left with eye patch) and his motley crew, Gabriel Moo, Elias Pinedo, Jordan Simpson, Bennett Randolph, and Quinn Timmons.

