



## J.B.K. Fundraiser Shines Light on Mental Health

LIZ ROMERO

The weather could not have been more perfect for the J.B.K. - Just Be Kind fundraiser held at Jack's Welding and Machine Shop on Saturday, Aug. 2. With roughly 200 in attendance throughout the day, it was a day filled with great food, fun activities, and an outpouring of support for mental illness awareness.

The event kicked off with the Cozad FFA chapter providing a delicious free-will donation lunch featuring juicy burgers. The Cozad Elk's Club supplied the beverages, while the silent auction opened with over 30 donated items. From tools and tents to handmade crafts, the auction created a friendly bidding war that kept guests engaged throughout the day. The handmade waving Wood American flag and the \$500 gift card to Troy's Tire and Auto were the two items that brought in the most in the silent auction.

A crowd favorite was the cornhole tournament, which became a hit with partygoers, adding a fun competitive element to the event. However, the BBQ competition was undoubtedly the centerpiece of the day. Eight teams competed fiercely for the grand \$2,500 purse and the coveted title of "Just for Glory" winner. The teams started smoking and grilling Friday night to ensure their briskets, donated by Tyson Foods, and ribs, donated by Jack's Welding, were perfectly cooked by the time the event started. Each team was provided with three briskets, eight racks of ribs, their custom meat brand, drinks of their choice, and event t-shirts.

"The BBQ competition was a big hit, and it brought out some incredible talent and delicious food," shared LeAnn and Jack Muegerl. "The silent auction drew a lot of attention with many unique items donated." With six judges overseeing the competition, it was .308 BBQ, led by Dallas Maack and his team, that took home the first place prize.

As the smell of BBQ filled the air, guests enjoyed all-you-can-eat servings while Sweetwater provided live entertainment. Later in the day, The Schlitz Band took the stage.



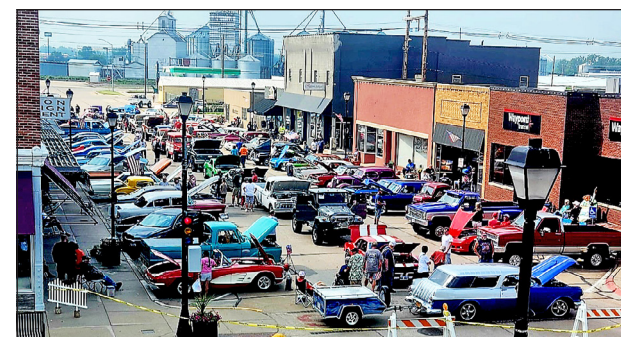
Jack Muegerl, host of the J.B.K. fundraiser along with his wife LeAnn, chats with partygoers while enjoying a lively game of cornhole, surrounded by supporters of the cause on Saturday, Aug. 2. (LOCAL Photo by M.C. Lewis)



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## Weather Forecast

Aug. 7: 92/67	
Aug. 8: 94/66	
Aug. 9: 87/63	
Aug. 10: 82/63	
Aug. 11: 83/63	
Aug. 12: 86/64	
Aug. 13: 87/64	



cont. PAGE 24 - Just Be Kind

PAGE 7 - Library Events

PAGE 12 - Car Show



# Zero-Turn, Zero-Worries

My husband keeps suggesting we hire someone to mow our yard. He means well, but what he doesn't understand is that mowing is my thing, it's my time. I'm that person who stands over freshly cut grass, hands on hips, admiring the crisp lines. Cue the white New Balance shoes and a deep sigh of satisfaction. Add in the sprinklers and I'm content for hours.

With it being his busy season, I never know when I'll have help with our son and therefore when I will have a chance to mow. So when my kid headed off to the movies, I jumped at the chance. My own mower's out of commission, a bearing or something. It made the thunk-thunk sound. So I borrowed my pop's spare. It's a zero-turn. Mine is... not. This one has the two handles, and oh boy, let me tell you this is not for the easily distracted!!

Still, I tossed in my headphones, turned on my trusty playlist, and eased into two and a half hours of vitamin D and meditative chaos. I take it slow, not because I'm being totally selfish with my time, but because my yard is enormous and I only have a chance to mow once a week. That much grass deserves respect and a vigilant eye because... snakes.

Now, when I'm in charge of the car stereo, I'm great at reading the room. I play what I like, but also what the driver will enjoy. But with mowing, I need both hands on deck now, so my playlist has to play on shuffle. And what a lineup, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Nickelback, Paul Simon... It's a genre buffet. I lean in, zone out, and focus on the blades of grass and not the odd transition from "I Love College" to "Bad To The Bone."

Liz Romero



And as it turns out, I sing. Loudly.

Somewhere mid-song, I whip the mower around like I just won the Indy 500 and see a friend standing there. Fully embarrassed, I waved and decided to embrace it. I finished the song like I'm meant to perform for a paid audience. It is quite the performance, I might add, for them. And also, apparently, the neighbors.

By the final stretch of the yard, I was suddenly very aware that not only was I singing, but I didn't know all of the lyrics. So now I'm mumble-singing nonsense with confidence. And just as I start to recover, I com-

pletely sideswiped one of my own trees. If my pops asks, I have no clue how that happened. The tree just jumped out at me. Like when I was a teenager, invincible and never wrong.

Now, halfway through mowing season, I've mastered the zero-turn like a teenager doing donuts in an empty icy parking lot. Sure, I've put a few extra holes in the grass, but I'm having a great time doing it. If my neighbors are listening closely enough, they probably know every word to "Truth Be Told" by Matthew West, because that's my personal anthem at the moment. I belt it out like I'm headlining Maddison Square. Again, with full confidence and a questionable pitch.

So this week's column is about finding your happiness in the everyday tasks. It doesn't have to be big and flashy. Next week might be the backstory of my 10 house plants having nametags. We'll find out together. Just stick around. I want you here.

*A slightly louder-than-usual friend, Liz*



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# COZAD LOCAL

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Cozad Local is published weekly by Syndicate Publishing, LLC, 805 9th Street, Gothenburg NE 69138. Postage paid at Cozad, NE 69130. USPS Publication Number 25713. Copyright Cozad Local © 2025 Postmaster: Send change of address to: Cozad Local -P.O Box 188 - Cozad NE 69130

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Participating in the ribbon cutting and presentation of the First Dollar were front row, from left, Robyn Geiser, Cozad Chamber of Commerce Director Jordan Starman, Tiffany Gailey, Donna Robb, Shanna (Robb) Walker, Linda Gadway, Diana Toner, and Caroline Valenzuela. Back row, Mandy Swanson, Jen McKeone, Tim Hansen, Tiffany's husband Nick Eisele, Donna's husband Bill Robb, and Chuck Birgen. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

# Meridian Events Center Celebrates Grand Opening

COZAD LOCAL

The highly anticipated Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Meridian Events center took place on Thursday evening, July 31, drawing a large crowd eager to explore the new venue and enjoy a delightful evening of food, music, and celebration. The event, which was hosted at 1910 Meridian, was a resounding success, offering a perfect introduction to the versatile venue.

Attendees were treated to a variety of delectable food options, including cupcakes, Crazytown cookies, and an assortment of hors d'oeuvres such as charcuterie cups and prosciutto cups. For those with heartier appetites, a delicious brisket meal was served alongside potato salad, macaroni salad, and a flavorful potato casserole. The kids had plenty of fun with games to enjoy, while DJ Bobby D. kept the atmosphere lively with a great mix of music. The Bottoms Up Kegerator was also a hit, ensuring that guests stayed refreshed throughout the evening.

Meridian Events has already made a name for itself, having successfully hosted events such as a Nerf Fun Battle, birthday parties, and graduation



## COZAD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

celebrations. The venue offers a range of room sizes, ensuring there's a perfect space for every type of event, including wedding receptions.

Owners Tiffany Gailey and Donna Robb, who personally prepared most of the evening's food, were joined by family, friends, potential renters, and the Cozad Ambassadors to celebrate this exciting new venture. The community's enthusiasm and support were evident throughout the evening, as everyone came together to mark the beginning of what promises to be a popular venue for years to come.

"We are so grateful for everyone who came out to support us," Gailey and Robb shared on their Facebook page. "We're excited to get started on making all your events magical!"

Meridian Events is available for a variety of events, including weddings, birthdays, and more. For inquiries, the venue can be reached at 308-991-8235, via email at meridianeventsllc@gmail.com, or on Facebook @MEcozad. With its flexible event space and welcoming atmosphere, Meridian Events is sure to become a cherished location for future celebrations.



**Arnold, Nebraska • August 7-9, 2025**

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**LOUP 2 LOUP OPEN ROAD RACE**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

<b>6:30 am</b>	<b>Volunteer Breakfast</b> With Assignments <i>Halsey Elementary School</i>
<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Road Closes</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Loup 2 Loup Race</b> Halsey > <i>Watch online: SandhillsExpress.com/live</i>
<b>9:00 - 11:00 am</b>	<b>Spectators &amp; Drivers Breakfast</b> Free-will donation <i>UCC Pardon Church</i>
<b>After Race</b>	<b>Lunch</b> <i>Halsey Community Building</i>

**ONE MILE SHOOTOUT**  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

<b>6:30 am</b>	<b>Breakfast by Winfield Sweets N Eats</b> <i>At Shootout Location</i>
<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Road Closes</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>One Mile Shootout Race</b> Spectator Seating Provided 12 mi. N of Cozad on Rd. 421 or 1 mi. W of Callaway, & 16 mi. S on Cozad-Callaway Co. Rd. > <i>Watch online: SandhillsExpress.com/live</i>
<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch by Callaway Chamber</b> <i>Callaway Community Center</i>
<b>2:30 pm</b>	<b>Parade and Car Show</b> Parade starts at S. Haskell Street & continues around city park Car show follows - Downtown Arnold
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>Drag Races and Burnout Contest</b> <i>Downtown Arnold</i>
<b>6:30 pm until gone</b>	<b>Chicken Noodle Supper</b> <i>by St. Annes Catholic Church Arnold Community Center</i>

**SANDHILLS OPEN ROAD CHALLENGE**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

<b>6:00 am</b>	<b>Volunteer Breakfast</b> With Assignments <i>Arnold Community Center</i>
<b>7:00 am</b>	<b>Road Closes</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>SORC Race</b> Arnold > <i>Watch online: SandhillsExpress.com/live</i>
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Free Will Donation Barbeque</b> Proceeds go to Arnold Chamber Sponsored by Great Plains Communications <i>Arnold City Park</i>
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>SORC Awards</b> <i>Arnold City Park</i>
<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>Entertainment: B.J. Jamison</b> <i>Grazers Bar &amp; Grill</i>

Not responsible for accidents. Volunteers must be registered.

Thanks to our sponsors, contributors and volunteers who make this event possible!



# Robert Henri Museum Announces Grand Opening

PETER OSBORNE

The Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new gallery on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 10:30 a.m. The gallery is located at 207 East 9th Street, in Cozad. All of the organization's facilities, its museum, library and archives and gallery will be open during the day until 5 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

The ribbon cutting will begin a new chapter in the museum's long and storied history. The project will take the institution to an even higher level and make it a national center for preserving and promoting the art and legacy of Robert Henri. The museum has been making steady progress for almost forty years as it first preserved Henri's boyhood home in the 1980s and then constructed a nine-hundred square foot gallery to house its growing collection of his art in 2014.

Construction of the new gallery began in the fall of 2023 and was finished in May 2025. The new gallery will

be about five thousand square feet in size. It will allow the museum to expand its collection to more than fifty paintings in the future. The new building includes state of the art climate control, fire protection, and security systems and exhibition space. It also includes an outdoor patio area, gift shop, the director's office and a serving kitchen.

The three-million-dollar expansion was paid for with grants, contributions and a very generous donation and matching commitment from patrons Larry and Tammy Paulsen of two million dollars. Larry and Tammy have made the display of much of the artwork and exhibitions in our gallery possible through donations and loans. Larry's mother, Shirley Paulsen, was one of the founders of our museum in the early 1980s.

The museum will also be officially opening its new major exhibition: Painter, Teacher and Pioneer: A Journey Through the Life of Robert Henri. It is the first major new exhibit on the internationally known painter in more than thirty years. The exhibit will combine biographical material along with paintings, sketches and information on his students, which numbered one thousand, and his artistic philosophy that he called the Art Spirit. The exhibition reveals the remarkable array of locations that Henri painted over his forty-year career.

The museum's former gallery was converted into a new library and archives building as it is climate controlled and has a sophisticated security system. In addition, the Impact Nebraska artist exhibition will be

on display. The museum will continue to serve as the focus of the museum's interpretative exhibits that tell the story of the Nebraska chapter of Robert Henri's life along with his family's connection to Cozad.

The Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery is a national treasure that is the result of the work of many volunteers, board members and professional staff who have toiled for more than thirty years. The effort to preserve Robert Henri's legacy in Cozad started with a small group of people who saw the opportunity to bring recognition to the town that was once home to the acclaimed artist and native son, Robert Henri (then Robert Henry Cozad). This group, led by Shirley Paulsen, bought and restored the former Hendee Hotel, Henri's boyhood home.

With local support and generous donations from Cozad and Henri family members, and donors from across the United States, the Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery's collection continues to grow. The first Henri painting donated to the museum in 1988 was Portrait of Queen Mariana. Since then, numerous donations and loans of Henri works have been made. Today the gallery houses the largest display of Robert Henri works, or those attributed to him, in the United States. The museum's complex is open from March 1 to Dec. 15, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the museum call 308-784-4343 or visit the museum's web page at [www.roberthenrimuseum.org](http://www.roberthenrimuseum.org). To follow the museum's activities, check out its Facebook.

## Axent Buildings & Doors

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## Cozad Grand Generation Center Weekly Menu: Aug. 7 - Aug. 13

**Thur. Aug. 7:** Lasagna, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Mix, Garlic Bread

**Fri. Aug. 8:** Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Pistachio Salad, Fruit Mix

**Mon. Aug 11:** Chili Dogs, Tater Tots, Pea Salad, Strawberry Fluff

**Tues. Aug 12:** Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Peaches

**Wed. Aug 13:** Tuna Casserole, Corn, Creamy Fruit Salad

**Lunch Served Daily 11:30-12:30 • Salad Bar Every Day!**

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## Lexington Grand Generation Center

**August 7th - August 13th**

Aug. 7th - Apricot Chicken, Wild Rice, Broccoli, Cold Veggie Salad, Pineapple

Aug. 8th - **Birthday Dinner:** Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Sliced Apples, Dinner Roll, Dessert

Aug. 11th - Chicken Delicious Casserole, Diced Potatoes w/ Veggies, Peas & Carrots, Pears

Aug. 12th - French's Onion Pork Chops, Au Gratin Potatoes, Hominy Bake, Peaches

Aug. 13th - Meatloaf, Tater Tots, Cream Corn, Applesauce

**Daily menus are subject to change. Lunch Prices 60+-\$5.00 Suggested Contribution Under 60- \$7.00**

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HEALTH SYSTEM

# Cozad Community Hospital is Nationally Recognized for Its Commitment

KARLIE ROSE BUSS, CCHS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The American Heart Association presents the Get With The Guidelines® awards for proven dedication to best practices and life-saving care.

Cozad Community Hospital has received four American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines® achievement awards for demonstrating a strong commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke—ultimately leading to more lives saved, shorter recovery times, and fewer hospital readmissions.

Heart disease and stroke remain the No. 1 and No. 5 causes of death in the United States, respectively, according to the American Heart Association 2025 Statistical Update. Studies show that patients experience better outcomes when hospitals consistently follow standardized treatment guidelines.

Get With The Guidelines® puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care aligns with the latest evidence-based practices. As a participating hospital, Cozad Community Hospital qualified for four major

awards by demonstrating a systemwide commitment to improving quality of care.

“We are incredibly proud to receive these awards in our very first year of implementing the programs,” said Jessica Fochtman, RN, STEMI Coordinator at CCHS. “Even more impressive is that we were already meeting many of the standards before we were formally measuring them. This recognition is a reflection of the dedication, skill, and heart that our entire team pours into every patient interaction day in and day out.”

Cozad Community Hospital is focused on improving care by adhering to the latest clinical guidelines and streamlining processes to ensure timely, appropriate care for both heart attacks and strokes. The Get With The Guidelines® program provides hospitals with actionable tools and data, making it easier for care teams to implement best practices daily—ultimately helping more patients live longer, healthier lives.

This year, CCH received the following achievement awards:

- American Heart Association Commitment to Quality

- Rural Stroke Gold
  - Rural Heart Failure Silver
  - Rural Coronary Artery Disease (NSTEMI-ACS) Silver
- “These awards show Cozad Community Hospital’s commitment to caring for those in their community who need cardiovascular care,” said Donald Lloyd-Jones, past volunteer president of the American Heart Association and current volunteer chair of the Association’s Quality Oversight Committee. “By following the American Heart Association’s quality improvement protocols, Cozad Community Hospital can help realize our shared vision of improved patient

outcomes, fewer readmissions, and lower mortality rates—a win for health care systems, families, and communities.”

**About “Get With The Guidelines”**

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-backed protocols. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines® has touched the lives of more than 14 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org).

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# AGRICULTURE



## Nebraska Is Fighting for the Water We Were Promised – And We Stand with that Fight

### PRESS RELEASE

The State of Nebraska—under the firm leadership of Governor Jim Pillen and Attorney General Mike Hilgers—has filed a case in the U.S. Supreme Court to protect what belongs to Nebraskans: our water, our economy, and our future.

For a century, Nebraskans have relied on a promise embedded in the 1923 South Platte River Compact; a promise that Nebraska would be guaranteed water not only to meet its irrigation demands then, but also that it would get more water in the future – over four times more - if it built the Perkins County Canal. Colorado has reneged, and its actions have harmed Nebraskans. Our leaders are right to demand justice and to hold Colorado to its word.

### Colorado's Violations Hurt Every Corner of Nebraska

In recent years, South Platte River flows have dropped below 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) hundreds of times in the summer irrigation season. This threshold is supposed to trigger meaningful action by Colorado to reduce its use and protect Nebraska irrigators. But Colorado's black box water management scheme allows junior Colorado water users to continue taking Nebraska's water. In 2022, the Western Irrigation District, which depends on Compact flows, was forced to shut down most of its surface water deliveries for the first time in nearly 50 years. That meant failed crops, lost livelihoods, and shattered trust.

As Governor Pillen said, "They want absolutely every-

thing. They're even stealing the water from their own farmers for crying out loud. They are going to continue to develop the upstream economy at the expense of Colorado farmers and Nebraska farmers and I might also say the City of Lincoln."

Colorado's so-called augmentation scheme is a Devil's bargain. It allows junior Colorado users to pump heavily in summer when they would otherwise be shut down. They then allegedly "pay back" their summer withdrawals with stored winter water using a complex and multilayered system of water management that fails the straight face test and violates the Compact's plain terms. The result is real-time shortfalls for Nebraska irrigators in the summer when they need the water the most.

In total, experts believe Colorado has deprived Nebraska of up to 1.3 million acre-feet of water — water that should have been irrigating thousands of acres of Nebraska crops. Nebraska officials have asked the Supreme Court to require Colorado to repay this debt with real, wet water. We pay our debts in Nebraska, and we expect our neighbors to do the same.

### The Perkins County Canal: The Key to Unlocking Our Full Compact Rights

In addition to summer flows, the Compact gives Nebraska the right to build the Perkins County Canal to capture at least 500 cfs of winter flows, along with other excess waters. Yet, despite over \$600 million appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and years of planning, Colorado steadfastly refused to take Nebraska seriously. Casually dismissing the massive project as a "boondoggle", Colorado officials and allied groups have obstructed Nebraska at every step.

But why? If it's pure folly, and Nebraska is simply wasting its money, then why does Colorado care so much? Perhaps because Nebraska is finally about to expose the uncomfortable truth about Colorado water management. The fact is that the Perkins County Canal will call out the water Colorado's augmentation plans rely on to take Nebraska's summer irrigation water. In plain terms, Peter will be broke and won't be able to pay Paul. That water will instead flow downstream into Nebraska – just as the compact intended.

So, Colorado officials have not only acknowledged our right to build the Canal but also refused to honor our right unless we build the canal. At the same time, they oppose Nebraska's every effort and refuse to work

with Nebraska even in its efforts to minimize impacts on Colorado landowners. Colorado cannot speak out of both sides of its mouth while obstructing Nebraska's efforts to secure water rights prescribed by the Compact.

### We've Tried to Resolve This With Colorado

Nebraska worked in good faith for nearly three years. Colorado clearly intends to delay our progress as they race to slake their thirst for South Platte water with billions of dollars dedicated to water development projects in the basin. There is no way for Nebraska to address Compact disagreements as the Compact does not include a commission or dispute resolution board. That's why Attorney General Hilgers is right: only the U.S. Supreme Court has the authority to fairly resolve this matter and stop the damage before it becomes permanent.

Colorado's arguments of Compact compliance hinge on bookkeeping magic and temporary loopholes; Nebraska's case rests on the Compact's plain promise of water delivered when and where it is needed and in amounts that keep both states thriving.

This Supreme Court case will secure Nebraska's ability to irrigate our crops, power our homes, grow our economy, and sustain our natural environment for generations to come. We're not asking for extra water—just what the Compact promised. And we must put a stop to Colorado's overuse. It is not an accident; it's a policy directed at maximizing water use and economic development upstream of the State line and at Nebraska's expense.

### United in Purpose, Thankful for Leadership

The Canal will protect the investments Nebraska has made in its water management portfolio; doing nothing will erode that investment and hand over our water to further the economics of Colorado. As stakeholders in Nebraska's water future, we are proud to support the State's legal action. We thank Governor Pillen and Attorney General Hilgers for their decisive, principled leadership. They are not just standing up for a legal document, they are standing up for farmers, ranchers, power producers, wildlife, and the families who depend on this water.

Colorado is threatening the livelihoods of Nebraska's farmers, the reliability of municipal supplies, our energy security, and critical habitat along the Platte River. Let there be no doubt: Nebraska is fighting for what was promised, and we stand with that fight and urge all Nebraskans to join us.

## Market Report

### For the Week Ending Aug. 1, 2025

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices,  
Central Region

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN: \$3.60-\$3.89

US NO 1 SOYBEANS: \$9.09-\$9.14



### Livestock Weighted Average Report for Aug. 4, 2025

**STEERS** - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)  
Wt. Range – 921-940; Avg Wt - 934; Price Range –  
\$323.00-333.35; Avg Price – \$330.43

**HEIFERS** - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)  
Wt. Range – 836-843; Avg Wt - 838; Price Range –  
\$306.25-334.00; Avg Price – \$324.49



# Cozad Elks Set to Host Back to School Bash

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Elks Lodge #2250 is preparing for their annual shoe drive, and while this year's event will look a little different, they're committed to making it happen, no matter what! Due to a delay in receiving the grant funding, the shoe distribution process will begin once the funding comes in. The Elks hope to have the shoes purchased and distributed as soon as possible, with a target date of Sep. 1, but will announce at a later date when it's confirmed. The Cozad Elks shared that they understand this change may not be ideal; they are excited to

continue supporting the community and ensuring that students in Dawson County have the shoes they need for the school year.

To participate in this year's shoe drive, you must attend the Back to School Bash on Sunday, Aug. 17, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Cozad Elks. At this event, attendees will be able to sign up in person for the shoes and provide sizing. While there, you can enjoy a petting zoo, face painting, bounce houses, school supply BINGO, and game.

Over the years, the Cozad Elks shoe drive has grown significantly. In 2022,

there were 126 shoe requests, with 95% of them coming from the Cozad area. In 2023, the Elks expanded the shoe drive to include all of Dawson County, resulting in 235 requests. The number of requests continued to increase in 2024, reaching 296, showing just how vital this initiative has become for the community and surrounding areas.

The shoe drive is made possible thanks to a generous grant that the Cozad Elks apply for each year, as well as the support of Elks members and the community. The drive serves as an essential

resource for families in need, ensuring that children can start the school year, or this year, continue the school year with the footwear they need.

While the delay in funding may have shifted the timeline, the Elks are determined to make the shoe drive a success. Be sure to stop by for the Back to School Bash on Aug. 17 to sign up and help ensure your child is ready for school with new shoes. The Elks appreciate your patience and support as they work to make this event happen and look forward to seeing everyone there.

## August Events at Wilson Public Library in Cozad

COZAD LOCAL

Wilson Public Library in Cozad has a full calendar of exciting events this August, offering something for everyone, whether you're an avid reader, an aspiring writer, or just looking for a fun activity for the whole family.

This August, Wilson Public Library is thrilled to be part of 'The Festival Near You', a statewide initiative celebrating the 2025 National Book Festival. The festival brings Nebraska's Great Reads from Great Places children's book, 'Ted Kooser: More Than a Local Wonder' by Carla Ketner, to communities throughout the state. This beautifully illustrated book introduces young readers to the life of Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, and celebrates his Nebraska roots and the art of storytelling.

The library will be hosting author Carla Ketner for a special presentation at Cozad Elementary School on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 2 pm, for 3rd-5th graders. In addition, the book is featured as the August 'StoryWalk®' at Muny Park, which encourages readers of all ages to enjoy the story outdoors while walking the trail. The 'StoryWalk' is available throughout the month of August and is free and open to the public.

Looking for your next great read? The Cozad Library Foundation is hosting its annual book sale from Monday, Aug. 4 to Friday, Aug. 15, at Wilson Public Library. The sale will run from 9 am to 5 pm daily, except Saturdays, when it will be open from 9 am to 1 pm. With hundreds of books for all ages and interests, this annual event is a favorite for book lovers. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Cozad Library Foundation.



Ten 4th and 5th graders took part in the 2025 Summer Art Camp held at the Wilson Public Library July 28 - 31. The classes were taught by GPS Art Instructor Jami Stortenbecker assisted by WPL Director Laurie Yocom and WPL Youth Director Jennie Smith. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

Join in the library's engaging book clubs and writing events this month. The Writing Society met on Tuesday, Aug. 5 and will meet again on Aug. 19 at 6 pm. Writers of all levels and genres are invited to join the group to connect, share advice, and get feedback.

On Monday, Aug. 18, at 10 am, Kim's Book Club returns after its summer break with a discussion of 'The River We Remember' by William Kent Krueger. The September selection, 'Here One Moment' by Liane Moriarty, will also be available for checkout.

For a creative outlet, join Wilson Public Library on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 4 pm for Crafternoon, where participants can create gratitude watercolors. Seating and supplies are limited, so registration is required by Friday, Aug. 15.

For dog lovers, the library will host a special 'Dog Man' party on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 4 pm. Kids under 8 can

enjoy 'Dog Man'-related activities, including a scavenger hunt, and free popcorn.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, at noon, join the library for a Community Chat with Deb Leahy and members of Paw Prints of Dawson County.

On Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 5:30 pm, Roxanne Converse-Whiting will share her adventure to Australia and New Zealand, including attending the Women's World Cup Tournament.

Wilson Public Library in Cozad offers a rich variety of events this month that highlight community engagement, literary discussions, creativity, and much more. For more details, visit the library's website at [www.wilsonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.wilsonpubliclibrary.org) or check out their Facebook page for updates.

All events are held at Wilson Public Library, located at 910 Meridian Ave. in Cozad, unless otherwise noted.



# CCS to Implement Reunification Plan

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

A meeting was held at the FOX Theater in Cozad on Wednesday, July 30, to discuss a reunification plan for what needs to be done after a school violence incident. In attendance were 25 people from the Cozad Community School system, the City of Cozad, the Chamber of Commerce, the Wilson Public Library, local law enforcement, and others.

CCS Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dan Endorf led the meeting. "I've been in education for 25 years and have taken note of violence and tragedies that have occurred in schools. One of the lessons I've learned is that you need to be prepared for what to do after the event. This becomes a marathon, and we become indebted to law enforcement at the reunification site to assist staff members and volunteers and manage students," Dr. Endorf stated. Dr. Endorf had spent the two years prior to becoming CCS Superintendent of Schools at Kearney High School, where he was the Director of Student Services and Safety.

Dr. Endorf began his presentation by showing a video, SRM V2, the Standard Reunification Method created by the Texas State School Safety Center, inspired by the "I Love You Guys" Foundation. This foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides programs and resources for school safety and reunification. The foundation's SRP (Standard Response Protocol) instructs how to respond to any incident with a practiced protocol for schools, businesses, and communities. The SRP consists of five actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

Dr. Endorf initially met with CMS teacher/school safety and improvement volunteer Shavonne Schacher and EMT Alison Feik. They modeled CCS's reunification plan after those which have been in place at Kearney High School and Overton High School.

Although sites close to schools are tempting to use, such as the Cozad United Methodist Church near the elementary school, it may be counterproductive to have it as a planned reunification site since there may be a funeral in progress or some other event in the building.

Dawson County and Cozad Emergency Manager Brian Woldt concurred that it is better to seek a site away from the school where you can control the entries and exits from the building. It was decided that the FOX Theater, with its three theaters and large community room, was a large and advantageous site to select as the reunification site. There is also an abundance of parking available close to the theater during the day.

Reunification sites and plans used to be kept secret in fear that perpetrators would know the location. Now, these sites are made public and would be checked out in advance by law enforcement to ensure that they haven't been compromised. It usually takes about four hours from the violent incident until students may be transported to the reunification site. By that time, 50–60 law enforcement staff members would be at the theater.

The procedure was explained, with students being checked in and taken by grade levels to the various theaters in the building. Schacher provided the reunification information form, which will be used, thanking parents/guardians for their patience as school and community personnel seek to reunite them with their student(s) as quickly as possible. Parents/guardians would need to have a photo identification out and ready to show school district personnel and fill out a form with the student's name, grade, cell phone number, the name of the person picking up the student, their relationship to the student, their phone number, and their signature. "Volunteers will have color-coded vests and lanyards with job descriptions on them. All signage will be in English and Spanish. All supplies, including clipboards, flow charts with cell numbers, and the information forms, will be kept in a tote at the theater," Schacher explained.

Cozad Police Chief Nick Reynolds shared that once they receive a call, they will react with deadly force, and they will take an aggressive stance as the school enters a lockdown. "We would be assisted by the Dawson County Sheriff's Department, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Gothenburg Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies. Once the threat is secured within a two-block radius, it is now a crime scene, and we would then seek volunteers and decide how to get the students to the FOX Theater," Reynolds stated.

Tim Kostrunek, Administrative Sergeant with the Dawson County Sheriff's Department, was also in attendance and reiterated and added to what Reynolds said. "We are a member of the South-Central Area Law Enforcement Services (SCALES), and our initial response will be up to 60 officers from the 16 agencies who partner with the Nebraska State Patrol. Our initial response will be aggressive, and then we will slow down," Kostrunek stated. "We have conducted three drills already in Overton that have



Cozad Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dan Endorf led a reunification plan meeting in the FOX Theater lobby on July 30, which was attended by 25 Cozad Community Schools staff members, City of Cozad employees, CDC staff members, local law enforcement personnel and others. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

been beneficial," Kostrunek added.

Law enforcement will be the 'Incident Command,' and there will be plenty of time to set up, as it usually takes hours after the incident to transport the students.

"The theater's lobby is a perfect staging area for law enforcement, school officials, and volunteers to enter," Dr. Endorf stated.

Concerns and questions were brought up, with one being interpreting for non-English speaking parents/guardians. Board of Public Works employee Sandra Brunick shared that she speaks Spanish, and Kostrunek also made note that his wife, Marcie, would be available to translate.

CDC Director Jen McKeone informed those in attendance that there is a fire alarm microphone at the theater, which could be used to call to any of the theaters or the community room instead of utilizing runners to get students for their parents/guardians.

The collaboration was phenomenal between those in attendance, including Reynolds, Kostrunek, Woldt, Schacher, Endorf, CCS Technology Director Patty Wolfe, McKeone, and others to cover the bases, especially notification, ensuring that the reunification plan for the school is off to a promising start.

Dr. Endorf showed the video at the conclusion of the meeting. "I feel that every community needs this plan, as this is a community event. This reunification plan could also be used by churches or other community groups. I thank everyone who attended today. Our teaching staff will learn what was shared here at a Wednesday afternoon early-out inservice, and we will reconvene here next summer to take our plan to another level and answer remaining questions," Dr. Endorf stated.





# County Commissioners Discussed Nebraska Keno

COZAD LOCAL

On Friday, Aug. 1, the Dawson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Commissioners’ Room at the courthouse in Lexington. The meeting followed the Board of Equalization meeting and was called to order by Chairman Kevin Swanson. The meeting was open to the public, as required by law, with all proceedings conducted in an open forum.

The meeting began with the approval of minutes from prior sessions. The minutes from the July 15, regular meeting and the July 22, budget workshop were both approved unanimously. Treasurer’s receipts were also presented and approved, totaling \$615,678.22, as well as the claims for payment amounting to \$1,630,242.11.

During the citizen’s comments section, Tucker Case raised concerns about distress warrants. In terms of committee reports, there were no updates from the ARPA committee, but Emergency Manager Brian Woldt provided a brief update on the courthouse remodel. Additionally, Elaine Menzel from the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) was present

to give a report on her organization’s activities.

The meeting continued with presentations on Nebraska Keno, Inc. by Mike Nevrviv and on Nebraska Cooperative Government (NCG) by William Kurtenbach and Paul Schumacher, who joined via Zoom. Oscar De La Torre of 321 Tavern also spoke briefly about the topic. Following the discussion, a motion was made to table the matter, which passed with a unanimous vote.

Emergency Manager Woldt sought approval for a payment request from Kidwell, related to a previously approved door lock system. A motion was made to approve Resolution 2025-32, which authorizes the payment, and the motion passed unanimously.

The budget committee presented the 2025-2026 County Budgets for review, followed by a motion to authorize Brian Woldt to apply for the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). The motion passed without opposition.

The Board held two public hearings regarding Conditional Use Permits. The first hearing was for a permit filed by Paul Reed Construction on behalf of

Wilke Land, LLC, to allow a mining and excavation operation on a 59.98-acre tract in Dawson County. After the hearing, the permit was approved, with Commissioner Richeson emphasizing the importance of safety on the project.

The second public hearing was for a Conditional Use Permit filed by Shiloh Schultz to operate a family childcare home, preschool, and private school on a 7.30-acre tract in Dawson County. This permit was also approved after the public hearing.

The Board reviewed and approved a comprehensive list of employee salaries and job descriptions, which included adjustments for various positions within the county government. This list covered a wide range of employees, from commissioners to law enforcement, court personnel, and other county staff. This list can be found in the legals sections of this week’s paper.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The minutes of the meeting agenda were continually updated and available for public inspection as required by law.

# Annual Mission to Cozad Continues to Faithfully Serve

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

This year’s Mission to Cozad was once again hosted by the Church of Christ on July 25 and 26.

The theme for this year was “Give it Up!” based on Luke 9:23-24. “Then he said to them all, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.’” In a nutshell, these verses refer to the act of laying down our lives daily (putting aside our plans and desires) to pick up the cross and follow Jesus.

The guest speaker for both evenings was Jaxon Bernal from Grand Island. Bernal will be starting his second year at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO. He spoke about several biblical leaders and the blessings they received when following Christ, as well as their downfall when their pride was not kept in check.

Volunteer leaders for this year’s M2C were Paul and Sue Lauby, Connie Schmeckle, Nick and Amberlyn Cullers, and Steve and Sally Curtice. The Laubys have operated the concession stand at Sportsman Park for years to raise some of the funding for M2C.

Meals were provided by the Church of Christ, First Presbyterian Church (Saturday noon meal), and Kim, Mark, and Gage Sutherland (Saturday evening’s meal).

Friday night included supper, games, worship, snacks, and speaker Jaxon Bernal. As in past years, all participants spent the night at the church.

The wake-up call was at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, with jobs assigned at 7:40 a.m. and service projects in the community from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. After showers at the Community Wellness Center, a pool party was held at Muny Park, followed by supper at the church. After supper, there was worship, a message from Jaxon Bernal, discussion, and a group activity, with dismissal for the faith-

filled weekend at 10 p.m.

Cozad resident Janice Johnson, one of the beneficiaries of the work projects, had this to say about M2C. “If you ever wondered what the matter with today’s youth is, let me be the first to tell you about Mission to Cozad! These young boys and girls, and their sponsors, again descended on my home like David, Daniel, Ruth, and other biblical characters, garbed in the Spirit of God, armed not with slingshots but filled with the faith that seems to be lost by today’s standards. It manifested itself in the youth’s energy as they attacked the weeds and trees in my backyard. No cell phones, just weed whackers, chainsaws, loppers, and ENERGY! My faith received a boost as the abundance of weeds fell to God’s warriors dressed as young people, willing to do anything to help out. We are blessed in Cozad with the silent majority, smiling, laughing, and teasing as they work miracles that this 80-year-old body can no longer achieve! God bless you all and thank you for being messengers of God’s love!”

Thank you to the students, their leaders, and everyone who helped make this another memorable Mission to Cozad weekend. Mark Wednesday, Dec. 31, on your calendar for the annual M2C New Year’s Eve Bash.

## Wedding Announcement

Quenton Hilton and Delaney Pearce are excited to announce their union on Aug. 6, 2025. The couple were joined by Delaney’s father, Lance Pearce of Fresno, CA, Quenton’s mother, Jolee Butler of Pineflat, CA, and their siblings, Evan Vanderpoel and Ethan McWhorter.

# How Runza Became a Nebraska Tradition

NATALIA ALAMDARI, FLATWATER FREE PRESS & ELLEN MORTENSEN

The handheld meal keeps football fans warm at Memorial Stadium during chilly Husker games. Drivers chow down on them straight from the bag on long drives down Interstate 80. Vice presidential candidate Tim Walz went viral for spending hundreds at the fast-food chain during an Omaha campaign stop in 2024.

It's a little pillow of dough and meat. It's quintessentially Nebraska. It's the Runza.

So what is a Runza?

Technically, "Runza" is the trademarked word for a bierock.

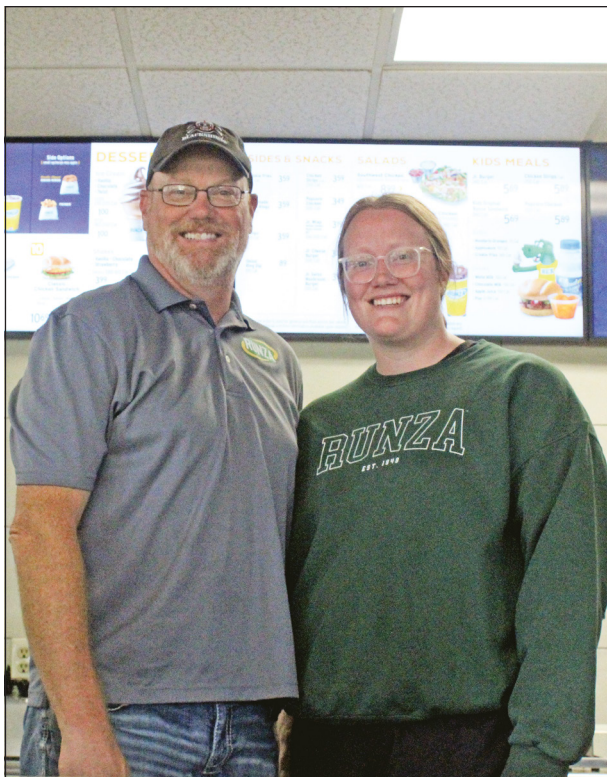
The German Russian pastry features a mix of spiced ground beef, cabbage and onions, all encased in a soft yeasty dough, said Emily Gengenbach, librarian and program coordinator for the American Historical Society of Germans From Russia in Lincoln.

Their shape varies, a traditional bierock is often rounded, while the trademarked Runza is more of a rectangle. And while bierocks are eaten by German Russian descendants throughout the Midwest, Runzas are a uniquely Nebraskan staple.

How did the food end up in Nebraska?

You have to go back a few centuries to answer this.

In the 1700s, Germans started moving to Russia. German princess Catherine the Great had married into the Russian royal family and was inviting her countrymen to move east. She offered free land for each family, and the promise to practice religion freely and no requirement to serve in the Russian military.



Jeff Whiting and his daughter, Kim Jorgenson, oversee the Gothenburg and Cozad Runza stores, which are owned by Whiting. In August, he will celebrate the 30th anniversary of owning the Gothenburg store. (Leader photo by Ellen Mortensen)

Once settled near the Volga River in southern Russia, they picked up on Russian cooking. Russians had the pirozhki, a baked or fried hand pie that can be

stuffed with savory or sweet fillings.

The Germans made it their own, and with that, the bierock was born. The handheld meal was perfect for farmers needing a hot lunch in the fields.

By the late 1800s, there was pressure for German Russians to assimilate to Russian culture and religion. The Russian military planned to start drafting German Russians. Many German Russians fled the country, ending up in the Great Plains.

"When they left, they brought their different cultural foods and traditions," Gengenbach said. "One of the cultural foods was the bierock, so that's how it ended up in Nebraska."

Why do Nebraskans call it a Runza and not a bierock?

That's where the fast-food chain comes in. In the 1940s, Lincolnite Sally Everett and her brother Alex Brening started selling homemade bierocks to factory workers on lunch break, Gengenbach said. By 1949, Everett and Brening opened their first location in Lincoln.

The pair wanted to trademark their recipe. But they couldn't trademark the word "bierock", it was too general of a cultural term.

So, they dubbed their pockets of meat the "Runza." The name is believed to have been inspired by "kraut-runz," another German word for bierocks, or "runsa," a German word for belly, because of the round pouch shape of the pastry, Gengenbach said.

By 1966, Everett and Brening opened their second location. In 1979, Runza Restaurants began franchising.

Today, there are 85 Runza locations throughout Nebraska. There are six more in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota.

Who actually owns the Runza stores?

Of course, one of the Nebraska locations is found right here in Cozad, where Jeff Whiting has been the

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franchise owner since 2005. Whiting will be the first to tell you that while he loves what he does, this was not the career he envisioned for himself.

Whiting and then wife, Roxanne, were fresh out of college, and she was looking at a teaching job in North Platte. He began looking for a job in North Platte as well and landed an interview at Runza.

"I went in for my interview in a suit and tie and the guy who was interviewing me came in dressed in shorts. I wasn't even sure what the job was that I was interviewing for," Whiting recalled. "If the guy wouldn't have said, 'If you like it and are successful at it, you can buy that store from me', I don't think I would have ever taken the job."

He spent a few months training as a general manager and spent the next five years in that position at the Gothenburg Runza. In 1997, the couple moved to Gothenburg to start their family, and in September of 2000, he purchased the controlling interest in the store.

"At the beginning of 2005, a building in Cozad came open for lease, so I opened that store. It was a McDonald's that had gone out of business, and when I moved in it was a used car dealership," Whiting shared. "It took some remodeling to get it back to looking like a restaurant, but the owner had left the coolers, so that was nice."

Whiting has since purchased both buildings. He is now joined in the business by the child who prompted the move from North Platte to Gothenburg, Kim Jorgenson.

"I graduated from GHS in 2016 then went to school in Beatrice and worked at the Runza there while I played volleyball and softball in college. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," said Jorgenson. "I thought I wanted to be a nurse for a little bit, then I thought I wanted to be a teacher too."

After she graduated, she moved to Lincoln and was pursuing what she thought would be a teaching degree, while continuing to work at Runza locations there. In the meantime, she married Alex Jorgenson, also a Gothenburg native.

"I knew there was a chance he was going to want to move back to Gothenburg. He started Showtime Painting, and I took an internship at the Runza corporate office in Lincoln," Jorgenson continued. "I did that for six months. Alex moved back here to start his painting business, and I was living in Lincoln working."

She became very interested in being a district supervisor for Runza and decided that was the path she was going to take. That required her to manage a store for a minimum of five years, and what better way to achieve that than to go to work as general manager for her dad.

She worked as GM for the Cozad and Gothenburg



After learning they couldn't trademark "bierock," Runza founders Sally Everett and her brother Alex Brening landed on Runza — believed to have been inspired by "krautrunz," another German word for bierocks. (Photo courtesy of Runza Restaurants)

stores for two years, then in 2021, she was offered a job as district supervisor. "I was the first one to break that 5-year requirement," she added.

Jorgenson worked as district supervisor for a large area that stretched from Sidney to Milford, and Broken Bow to McCook. During that time, she and Alex welcomed their first child, Bowe, and she began working closer to home, remaining more in central Nebraska. She says it was while on maternity leave with her second son, Baker, in December 2024, that she realized the travel requirements of her job were no longer something she wanted to do with her littles at home.

She now does the same job she was doing as district supervisor, but only for two locations — Cozad and Gothenburg. "It's funny how your dreams change," she said. "I thought that was my dream job, and for a long time it was. But when you have kids, it just blows up everything."

The father-daughter team works closely together in the management and administrative roles of both Runza locations.

"Every Wednesday I get to watch my grandsons, so you won't find me in the store on Wednesdays," said Whiting with a big smile. "I love that. Having Kim here has created a little bit of balance in my life, and that's good. This job can consume everything if you allow it,

and for a long time I allowed it to do that. You've got to set boundaries."

Jorgenson said those boundaries were set from the beginning of her working relationship with her dad, which she believes is why it has been so successful. Whiting admits he never saw himself staying in this position, much less being eventually joined by his daughter.

"This literally felt like it was going to be five minutes of my life. I never saw myself doing this, but time just kept going, and I just kept doing it," he said. "There are so many parts of the job I just love."

What makes a Runza so special to Nebraska?

When Becky Perrett tells people she works for Runza, stories come pouring out. Runza eaters tell the company's director of marketing about how Runza is the first stop after picking up family members from the Omaha airport. Or how they buy frozen Runzas to take to relatives out of state.

"It's almost like people have an ownership of the brand," Perrett said. "They've seen us grow along the way."

By 1940, about 450,000 German Russians had emigrated to the United States. Most of them ended up in the Great Plains. Many of their descendants, like the Everett family that founded Runza, still call Nebraska home.

"They can relate to having a Runza. It's something that their grandmother or their mother made growing up," Gengenbach said. "It's kind of like having a sliver of homemade cooking from when they were a kid."

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# Second Annual Blacktop Classic Car Show Hits New Heights



Big E's, Meridian Tap House, and the Cozad Chamber partnered to host the second annual Blacktop Classic Car Show. The event took over Meridian Street on Aug. 2, lining the curbs with vintage cars, pickups, rat rods, and more. At 10 a.m., Meridian Tap House served breakfast specials while Big E's offered Bloody Mary deals. With 75 cars showcased, this year's show tripled the size of the inaugural event. (LOCAL Photos by MCL)



## 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

In honor of Carol Ziebell's 90th birthday on August 18th, the family is requesting a card shower. Cards can be mailed to 413 East 9th, Cozad, NE 69130.

We are also hosting an open house/reception August 16th from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 205 E 7th St, Lexington, NE

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# Water and Sewer Commissioner Explains Backflow Prevention

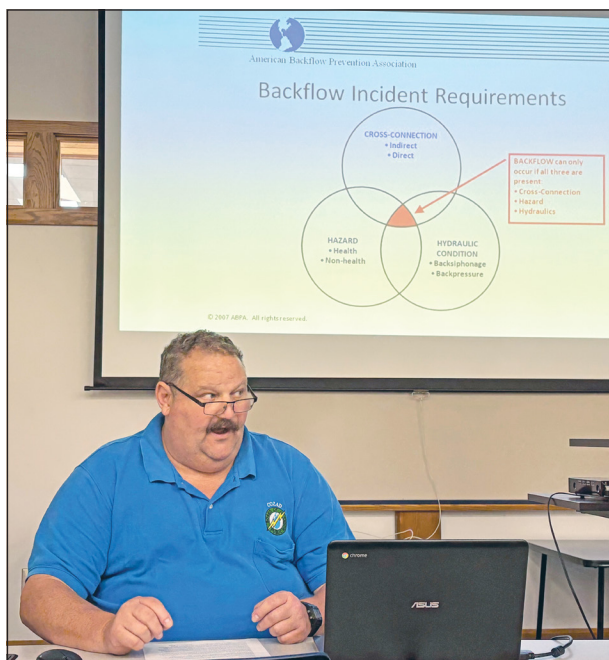
MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Troy Franzen, Water/Sewer Commissioner for the City of Cozad, appeared at the Wilson Public Library on July 23. He began his presentation by stating that everyone who has water service in the community should have received a yellow postcard that needs to be filled out and returned. "We send out cards for homeowners to fill out every five years as mandated by the State. This helps us identify any potential problems and find solutions before an incident occurs," Franzen explained.

Franzen's first PowerPoint slide showed a map of the water system in Cozad. "We have six wells that feed our water supply, with each well capable of producing 700-1,200 gallons per minute. We feed about 29 miles of piping throughout our system. Our water tower holds 500,000 gallons and helps maintain our pressure throughout the system. This is how our water system works in a nutshell, and I want to help you understand why backflow prevention is so important," Franzen stated.

"The water tower acts like an expansion tank and allows us to use water without turning on a well every time we need a drink. As you can see, we are all connected to the same water source. So, we all need to protect the water we drink from contaminants that can make us sick. One of the ways we do that is through cross-connection control, which is the legal term for backflow prevention," Franzen continued.

Franzen explained that backflow is just what it



Troy Franzen, Water Sewer Commissioner for the City of Cozad, presented a Community Chat at the Wilson Public Library on Wednesday, July 23. His main topic of discussion was to talk about backflow prevention and why it matters. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

sounds like, water flowing back toward the source. A cross-connection is a connection between the water supply and any hazard. "Backflow prevention is one of the most important yet misunderstood aspects of the water industry. The basics are simple enough to understand, we need to stop something outside the system from getting into the system. When we don't do that, we have a backflow incident," Franzen stated.

For a backflow incident to occur, three things must happen at once. First, there must be a cross-connection, which is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water lines and a potential source of pollution or contamination. This can be either direct or indirect. Second, there must be a hazard, with the State of Nebraska classifying hazards into two categories: health and non-health. A health hazard is

anything that can negatively impact human health, such as CO2 from soft drink dispensers or pesticides. A non-health hazard, while not directly harmful to human health, can negatively impact the water's quality or usability. "Hard water buildup or manganese buildup (little black flakes) can cause cloudy or bad-tasting water," Franzen explained.

"Lastly, we have to have a hydraulic condition: back pressure or back siphonage. Back pressure occurs when pressure is higher on the outlet side (house side) than on the inlet side (city side), as in the example of boiler heat. Back siphonage is when water is sucked from one side to the other, such as when filling a swimming pool. Water used to fill a swimming pool can be drawn back into the water supply during pressure drops, bringing contamination with it. If a garden hose is used to clean out sewer lines or rain gutter downspouts, a drop in pressure can cause contamination from those sources to be drawn back into your water supply. If an insecticide attachment is used on a garden hose, backflow can cause potentially lethal contamination of water supplies," Franzen stated.

Franzen noted that the State Drinking Water Division mandates what type of backflow device can be used in a situation. "We must take a class and a state-administered test to be qualified to determine which type you need. We currently have three people in our department certified in backflow prevention," Franzen said.

Franzen had slides showing each type of backflow prevention device, including Air Gap, the Hose Bib Vacuum Breaker, the Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB), and the Reduced Pressure Zone Backflow device, which is mostly used for high-hazard locations such as boilers or restaurants.

"The answers on the cards, which were mailed out by the City Office, help us determine if and/or what kind of backflow device should be used," Franzen stated. "A water heater does not count as a boiler for that question, and swimming pools and hot tubs need to be permanently connected to the water supply. However, I highly recommend that if you fill a pool or hot tub from a hose, you use a hose bib vacuum breaker or an air gap," Franzen continued.

Franzen concluded his presentation by stating, "Backflow prevention is a very important tool to keep our water safe. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure they are safe with the water we have that is used by all of us."

Franzen's informational PowerPoint presentation was recorded by Wilson Public Library Director Laurie Yocom and is available on the library's YouTube channel.

Cozad Community Leaders
FREE ENTRY

## Music Monday

### Aug 11th

### Rockin' Woody

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Jack's Welding

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Drinks: Meridian Tap House  
Dessert: Fine Arts Booster

## 5PM - 8PM

DJ Bobby D 5pm-6pm  
Sponsored by: Cozad Library Foundation  
Rockin' Woody 6pm - 8pm

Promotion sponsored by a grant from Cozad Tourism

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## Camp Comeca Hosts Annual Golf Tournament to Support Youth Scholarships

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Country Club set the stage for an unforgettable day on Saturday, Aug. 2, as Camp Comeca hosted its annual Comeca Golf Tournament. The event brought together 41 passionate golfers, all for a great cause, to raise funds that would benefit children in need of scholarships to attend Camp Comeca.

This year's tournament featured a popular four-person scramble, ensuring a fun and competitive atmosphere. The 18-hole tournament took place in perfect weather. The tournament got underway with a shotgun start after participants gathered at the clubhouse for registration before heading out to their tees, followed by lunch.

This year, the winners were Chad Atchison, Ethan Atchison, Myles Ide, and Owen Ross, who took home first place performance on the course.

The Comeca Golf Tournament was a tremendous success, bringing together golfers and community members for a day filled with friendly competition, generosity, and good times. The event not only raised crucial funds for Camp Comeca but also served as a reminder of the power of community support in making a meaningful difference in the lives of children.



Myles Ide lined up on the tee box for a big swing on hole five on Saturday at the Cozad Country Club.



Myles Ide, Owen Ross, Ethan Atchison, and Chad Atchison took first place at the Camp Comeca Golf Tournament. (Courtesy Photo)

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CHS Student Council members and Advisor Dawn Beans conducted their 11th annual Back to School Backpack Project at CHS on Tuesday, July 29. Members present for the first shift included front row, from left, Myles Ide, Braedon Groteluschen, and Mathew Arndt. Back row, Nolan Yilk, Talyn Propp, Evelyn Schroeder, Audrey Baker, and Taegan Dexter. (LOCAL Photos by Mel Nutt)



The annual Back 2 School Backpack Project sponsored by the CHS Student Council was well-attended with 175 children receiving backpacks. Excited to show off their backpacks to begin the new school year as they left the high school were from left, Andrea, Gabriel and Jazmine Castro.

# Student Council Hosts Annual Back 2 School Backpack Program

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Cozad High School Student Council hosted their 11th annual Back 2 School Backpack Supply Project on Tuesday, July 29. Backpacks and supplies were available for students' entering preschool through fifth grade. Supplies were also available for middle school and high school students, with backpacks provided if available for their age. This year's event was scheduled from 8 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 5 p.m. at the high school.

Student Council members shopped for supplies during the week of July 21 and sorted them by grade level on

Monday, July 28. This year, the project was moved to the high school.

According to Student Council Advisor Dawn Beans, 175 backpacks were handed out during the day to preschool through 5th grade. "Families were lined up outside the high school doors, stretching to the parking lot, before the doors opened at 8 a.m.," Beans said.

Although the Student Council paid for most of the supplies through their fundraising projects last year, they were appreciative of the generous donations they

received from the Wilson Foundation, Randy and Cindy Schneider, Deb Peden, Vera Cisneros, and an anonymous donor.

Beans, her husband, Steve, and Student Council members are on the lookout for discounted school supplies throughout the year for this project, which benefits up to 200 students annually.

Also present during the event was L2 for Kids volunteer Gloria Kloepping. "From 8 - 9 a.m., I had 40 children sign up, and we ended up with 60 families and 145 children in kindergarten through 12th grade signed up for our program by the end of the day," Kloepping stated. L2 for Kids was founded in 2011 by Henry Potter of Willow Island and purchased new clothes for 979 kids in 2024 in Alma, Arapahoe, Cambridge, Cozad, Culbertson, Eustis, Farnam, Grant, Gothenburg, Holdrege, Lexington, North Platte, and the McCook area. The children will shop with a parent and L2 volunteers at Walmart on August 5 and 7. L2 for Kids is a partner agency of the Charitable Fund of Cozad.

## SPECIALIST SCHEDULE | AUGUST 2025

### CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Katta: Aug 11  
Dr. Kummer: Aug 4, 18, 25

### CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Dr. de Brito McGee: Aug 13

### GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Buser: Aug 6, 13, 20, 27  
Dr. Luebbe: Aug 8, 22  
Dr. Seip: Aug 1, 15

### GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS

Dr. Adam: Aug 7, 14, 21, 28

### NEPHROLOGY

Dr. Islam: Aug 19

### OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr. Clinch: Aug 13

### ORTHOPEDIC SPINE

Dr. Ray: Aug 11, 12, 18, 19

### ORTHOPEDICS

Dr. Schopp: Aug 5, 12, 19, 26

### PAIN MANAGEMENT

Dr. Williams: Aug 20

### PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Dr. Bussard: Aug 25

### PODIATRY

Dr. Wray: Aug 7, 21

### UROLOGY

Dr. Rutman: Aug 4, 5, 18

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KATIE ARNDT  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# Road Rally and Silent Auction to Support Jensen's Recovery

LIZ ROMERO

On Sunday, Aug. 10, the Cozad community will come together to support local resident, Sara Jensen, who is facing a difficult recovery after a recent surgery. This event, which includes a road rally and silent auction, will take place from 1 - 7 p.m. at Meridian Tap House, with registration for the rally running from 1 - 2 p.m. The registration fee is \$20 per participant.

After experiencing abdominal pain in June, Sara was diagnosed with five liver lesions, two of which required the removal of the lesions. Although she is recovering, the road ahead will be long, and Sara has been unable to return to work for weeks. Along with medical expenses, Sara and her family are facing additional financial burdens, including hotel stays and home expenses while she continues to recover.

The upcoming event aims to help alleviate some of the financial strain on Sara and her family. The road rally will offer a fun way for participants to support her, with all proceeds benefiting Sara's medical and living expenses. Additionally, a silent auction will

feature donated items from local businesses and community members, with all funds going directly to Sara.

The road rally is described as a puzzle, escape room, and country cruise all rolled into one game. "It's going to be a wonderful day. Anyone can get into a car and take a nice slow ride," shared Celeste Debban. She explained that every participant will receive instructions, which will be vital to the road rally. "It will have the clues which you will read one at a time, without reading ahead. It could cause you to miss something. The paper will have tasks that you will do to fill in along the way." Debban explained it could be a few selfies to prove you found a treasure, so it's important to follow along. "This can be fun for all ages. Pack a cooler and maybe some snacks, it could take a few hours," Debban shared. "The trick is you have to watch your milage, as the one with the less miles will win the prize."

Gather a group of friends or your family, the more the merrier. Got a bus? Make it a party.

Anyone interested in donating items for the silent auction can contact Triteny Schmeeckle or Aaron Porter for more information. For questions regarding the road rally, please reach out to Celeste at 308-238-4247.

Sara and her family are deeply appreciative of the community's support. "We are so thankful for all the calls, texts, and prayers," said Sara's family. "It means the world to us during this time."

If you are unable to attend the event but wish to support Sara, donations can also be made via her Venmo account (message Sara for details), or contributions can be made directly to Sara's account at Security First Bank.

Join Sara's family and friends on Sunday, Aug. 10 at Meridian Tap House for a fun-filled day of support and fellowship as they rally behind Sara during her recovery. Whether you choose to participate in the road rally or bid in the silent auction, your support will make a meaningful difference in her journey back to health.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: THURSDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup> - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup>

7 THUR	8 FRI	9 SAT	10 SUN	11 MON	12 TUES	13 WED
Dog Man Scavenger Hunt @ WPL  1pm Tai Chi (free) @ Lex YMCA	Dog Man Scavenger Hunt @ WPL  11am Story Time @ WPL	Cozad Country Club: Tim Thramer Memorial Tournament  	National Spoil Your Dog Day  	10am Free Groceries @ GGC  Dog Man Scavenger Hunt @ WPL  6pm Cozad Community Leaders Monthly Meeting	Dog Man Scavenger Hunt @ WPL  12pm Library Board Meeting	10am Free Groceries @ GGC  Dog Man Scavenger Hunt @WPL  
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# The Gift Behind the Imperfect Offering

Have you ever received a child's gift? I remember the glimmer in his eye and the excitement in her smile. The creation - likely made from paper, glue, and love - didn't carry much market value. By the world's standards, it wasn't perfect. Yet it radiated meaning because of the heart behind it.

When I was young, I tried to sew a nightgown for my mom's birthday. I used one of her old nightgowns as a pattern and cut two pieces, which I then hand-stitched together. I didn't know that cotton doesn't stretch or that my big, uneven stitches couldn't withstand wear. But I beamed with pride as she opened my handmade gift. It wasn't useful, but it was overflowing with love.

Recently, I shared a hurtful experience with a young adult. Without hesitation, she acknowledged the person's good intention - even while recognizing the impact was misguided. I agreed, but was struck by how naturally she led with grace. It wasn't an effort; it was her instinct to believe the best and affirm the



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heart behind the act.

The moment stayed with me.

What if I began receiving the circumstances around me like a child's gift? Maybe they don't arrive perfectly wrapped. Maybe they lack polish or don't meet my expectations. But could there still be love or care in the offering? Could a difficult conversation, a co-worker's decision, or a friend's gesture - though imperfect - still carry goodness at its core?

I'm not suggesting we excuse harm or ignore reality. But what might shift in me if I started looking beyond flaws and failures to see the love behind the effort?

Like a mother treasuring a too-small, poorly stitched nightgown - not for its usefulness, but for the love woven through it. I want to learn to treasure people's imperfect gifts to me.

Sometimes the gift is in the intention. And sometimes, that's more than enough.



## Did You Know August is a Month Full of Awareness and Fun!

COZAD LOCAL

August is not just a month to wind down the summer, it's also packed with awareness months, fun celebrations, and important causes that highlight various aspects of our lives. Whether you're a pet lover, an education enthusiast, a foodie, or someone passionate about health, there's something for everyone this month. Here's a look at what August has to offer:

### Fun Awareness:

- **National Dog Month** - A whole month dedicated to celebrating our furry

friends! Show your dog some extra love and maybe take them on a walk at Muny Park.

- **Family Fun Month** - Spend some quality time with your family, whether it's through games, trips, or just enjoying each other's company at Fox Theater.

- **Romance Awareness Month** - Celebrate love and affection in all forms. Take a friend to get coffee at Brew'd Awakening or maybe dinner at Studio 6 Bistro.

- **National Golf Month** - Hit the

greens at Cozad Country Club and enjoy a round of golf. August is the perfect time to practice your swing.

- **Happiness Happens Month** - A time to focus on happiness and what makes you smile. Take a moment to appreciate the little things Cozad Creative District has to offer.

- **Motorsports Awareness Month** - For racing enthusiasts, this is your month to celebrate everything from dirt track at the Dawson County Raceway to NASCAR at Big E's.

- **International Peace Month** - A month to reflect on the importance of peace, understanding, and cooperation across the globe. On your walk to the post office, share a kind smile.

### Educational Awareness:

- **Get Ready for Kindergarten Month** - A wonderful time to help young children prepare for their big transition into kindergarten.

- **National Back to School Month** - Whether you're a student or a parent, it's time to start preparing for the upcoming school year. Kids get to see their friends and parents can take a sigh

of relief. ;)

- **National Crayon Collection Month** - Encourage the donation of crayons to Cozad Community Schools and organizations in need, help make sure every child can color and create.

### Food Awareness:

- **National Water Quality Month** - Focus on the importance of clean, safe water. Drink Culligan clear water.

- **National Catfish Month** - A delicious celebration of catfish! Try this Southern favorite if you haven't yet at the Cozad Elk's Club.

- **National Sandwich Month** - Who doesn't love a good sandwich? Celebrate the classic at Meridian Tap House.

- **National Goat Cheese Month** - Indulge in the creamy, tangy goodness of goat cheese, at The Frontier Frau.

- **National Panini Month** - Enjoy the Italian grilled sandwich in all its varieties this month at Subway.

- **National Brownies at Brunch Month** - How about some sweet, chocolatey brownies for brunch? Pick up some brownies from Sonny's Superfoods to share with friends and family.

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# Legals

## Notice

**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF  
DAWSON COUNTY,  
NEBRASKA  
ESTATE OF  
NONA E. HOOD,  
DECEASED.  
ESTATE NO. PR 25-59**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 25th day of June, 2025, in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, Cynthia J. Messersmith, whose address is 41811 West Highway 30, Cozad, NE 69130 was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of this Estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before the 7th of October, 2025 or be forever barred.

Myndee M Hagan  
Clerk of the County Court  
Bronson J. Malcom, #23661  
Malcom, Nelsen & Windrum,  
LLC  
Attorney for Applicant  
809 Meridian, PO Box 174  
Cozad, NE 69130  
308-784-2048

Aug. 7, 2025  
Aug. 14, 2025  
Aug. 21, 2025  
(30) znez

## Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO  
PURCHASE BRANCH OFFICE**

Notice is hereby given that Waypoint Bank, 747 Meridian Avenue, Cozad, NE 69130 has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for consent to purchase certain assets and assume substantially all of the deposit liabilities and other specified liabilities of the 105 S Saunders Avenue, Sutton, NE 68979 branch of Astra Bank, which is headquartered at 323 4th Street, Scandia, KS 66966. It is contemplated that all offices of the above-named institutions will continue to be operated with Waypoint Bank operating the branch in Sutton, NE. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments

in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the appropriate FDIC office located at 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Kansas City, MO 64106 not later than August 16, 2025. The nonconfidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.  
July 17, 2025  
July 31, 2025  
Aug. 7, 2025  
(42) znez

## Notice

**NOTICE OF  
REGULAR MEETING  
COZAD COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DAWSON COUNTY,  
NEBRASKA  
AUGUST 18, 2025**

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Cozad Community Schools Board of Education, District 11 of Dawson County, Nebraska will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, August 18, 2025, at Cozad District Office, 1710 Meridian Ave, Cozad, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public. The board will discuss, consider and take all necessary action to adopt a resolution increasing the school district's base growth percentage by up to six percent (6%). The agenda for this board meeting, which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the superintendent of school's office during normal business hours.

Dr. Dan Endorf,  
Superintendent  
Cozad School District No. 11  
Aug. 7, 2025  
Aug. 14, 2025  
(34) znez

## Notice

Notice is hereby given to: COZAD VETERINARY CLINIC, INC., a Nebraska corporation, JAMES PIOTROWSKI, D.V.M., and MAIDA PIOTROWSKI, husband and wife, AND ALL PERSONS HAVING OR CLAIMING ANY INTERESTS IN AND TO A TRACT DESCRIBED AS: Beginning at a point One Hundred (100) feet North of the Southwest corner of Lot One (1), in Tract A in the Subdivision of part of the North Half (N1/2) of Section Seven (7), Township Ten (10) North, Range Twenty Three (23), West of the 6th P.M., in the City of Cozad, Dawson County, Nebraska, thence East Two Hundred (200) feet, thence North Three Hundred Fifty (350) Feet, thence West Two Hundred (200) Feet, thence South Three Hundred Fifty (350) Feet to the place of beginning, REAL NAMES UNKNOWN. You are hereby notified that on July 22, 2025, Oliver K. Holbein, D.V.M., and DeeAnn L. Holbein, husband and wife, filed a Complaint in the District Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, Case No. CI 25-218, naming you as defendants, the object and prayer of which is to quiet title in fee in Plaintiffs, Oliver K. Holbein, D.V.M., and DeeAnn L. Holbein, husband and wife, to the real estate described here as against you and each of you. You must file an appropriate written response or answer to this complaint within thirty days after the last date of publication or otherwise be deemed in default.

Wilson J. Hupp, #27338  
Hart, Huyser & Miller,  
P.C., L.L.O.  
P.O. Box 229  
Cozad, NE 69130  
(308)784-4580  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
July 31, 2025  
Aug. 7, 2025  
Aug. 14, 2025  
(55) znez

## Notice

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ONE AND SIX YEAR STREET  
IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

Public notice as required by sections 39-2119, revised statutes of Nebraska, is hereby given that the City of Cozad, Nebraska, proposes to hold a public hearing on August 18th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. local time, at the regular meeting in the City Office to consider the adoption of a long-range plan for a one-year and six-year street improvement program for the City of Cozad, Nebraska. Any interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing and to present pertinent information, data, or views or to request additional information or afford full and complete public knowledge and discussion of said street improvement plans prior to adoption according to law and as provided in Legislative Bill No. 1302 passed by the 1969 Nebraska State Legislature and approved by the Governor.  
Aug. 7, 2025  
(31) znez

## Notice

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025  
7:00 PM**

Posted Locations: Cozad Local, Cozad Community Schools District Office, Cozad Post Office & Wilson Public Library. Posted Date: 7/17/2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Carlson, Geiger, Goff, Mundell & Starman present. Motion to approve the agenda Passed with a motion by Will Geiger and a second by Michele Starman. Yea: 5, Nay: 0. No public comment. 2025-26 BUDGET PLANNING REPORT. Dr. Endorf presented the Board with the 2025-2026 Budget Projections. AGENDA SETTING AND FUTURE MEETINGS. Next Regular Meeting is August 18, 2025. ADJOURNMENT. Motion to adjourn the meeting at

9:24 PM Passed with a motion by Stacey Mundell and a second by Will Geiger. Yea: 5, Nay: 0.  
Dr. Dan Endorf,  
Superintendent  
Cozad Community  
Schools District No. 11  
Aug. 7, 2025  
(34) znez

## Notice


**COUNTY COURTHOUSE,  
LEXINGTON, NE  
AUGUST 1, 2025**

The Dawson County Board of Equalization of Dawson County, Nebraska, met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 1, 2025 in the Commissioners' Room, 2nd Floor, Lexington, Nebraska. Notice

of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Lexington Clipper-Herald. A copy of the Proof of Publication is on file in the office of the County Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the published notice and in the notice to members of the Board of County Equalization of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. County Clerk, Michaela Arndt called the roll with Commissioners PJ Jacobson, Joe Richeson and Chairman Kevin Swanson present. Commissioners Bill

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The image shows a man in a plaid shirt and a woman in a striped shirt shaking hands. Behind them is a large newspaper with various headlines and text. The man is on the left, smiling, and the woman is on the right, also smiling. The newspaper is held up, showing several columns of text and some images.

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Source: Nebraska Statewide Study 2025, Coda Ventures

# Legals

Stewart and Rod Reynolds absent. Chairman Swanson announced that the current open meetings act was posted for the public and the location of the poster. Motion was made and seconded to approve the July 15, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve the July 15 and 16, 2025 protest minutes as presented. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. At 9:02 a.m. Chairman Swanson opened the public meeting regarding permissive exemption request filed by Cozad Hospital District #2. Nic VanCura, Assessor and Claude E. Berreckman, Jr., Attorney for the hospital spoke and requested approval of the exemption. At 9:03 a.m., Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing. Motion was made and seconded to approve Form 451 – Exemption Application filed by Cozad Hospital District #2 with respect to parcel 240086481. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Nic VanCura, Assessor, presented the 2025 Dawson

County Tx Exempt Cemetery listing. Motion was made and seconded to accept and approve the over/under, clerical error and omitted property listing as presented by Nic VanCura, Assessor. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. I, Michaela Arndt, County Clerk in and for Dawson County, hereby certify that all the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours prior to said meeting. That the minutes of the Dawson County Board of Equalization of Dawson County, NE., from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all media requesting notification concerning the meeting of said body were provided advance notice of the time

and place of said meeting and subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Michaela Arndt,  
Dawson County Clerk  
Kevin Swanson, Chairman  
Aug. 7, 2025  
(108) znez

## Notice COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEXINGTON, NE AUGUST 1, 2025

The Dawson County Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, Nebraska, met in regular session on Friday, August 1, 2025 in the Commissioners' Room, 2nd Floor, Lexington, Nebraska, immediately following the Board of Equalization meeting. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Lexington Clipper-Herald. A copy of the Proof of Publication is on file in the office of the County Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the published notice and in the notice to members of the Board of County Commissioners of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the con-

vened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. County Clerk, Michaela Arndt called the roll with Commissioners PJ Jacobson, Joe Richeson and Chairman Kevin Swanson present. Commissioners Bill Stewart and Rod Reynolds absent. Chairman Swanson announced the current open meetings act was posted for the public and the location of the poster. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2025, regular meeting as presented. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2025, budget workshop as presented. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Receipts: \$615,678.22. Motion was made and seconded to approve the claims as presented. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Total Claims: \$1,630,242.11. GENERAL VEN-

DOR CLAIMS: AT&T Mobility, Monthly Services, \$1,961.79. Axon Enterprise, Inc., Supplies, \$802.80. Amanda Boutte, Witness Fee, \$20.00. Bristol Windows Inc, Windows, \$7,208.00. CenturyLink, Monthly Services, \$1,264.17. Cornhusker State Industries, Equipment, \$745.00. Country Partners Cooperative, Fuel, \$7,787.31. Davis Law, LLC, Legal Services, \$2,990.25. Dawson County Road Dept., Repairs, \$887.23. Dawson County Treasurer, Transfer, \$50,000.00. Diamond Drugs, Inc., Meds, \$1,948.66. Diamond Medical Supply, Medical Supplies, \$18.59. Eakes Office Solutions, Contract Fees, \$48.74. FBI-Leeda, Training, \$3,180.00. Kenneth R Harbison, PC, LLO, Expenses, \$3,000.00. HD Supply Formerly Home Depot Pro, Supplies, \$590.43. Hometown Leasing, Leases, \$1,138.24. Jack's Uniform & Equipment, Supplies, \$685.49. Jones Plumbing, Repairs, \$1,748.93. Kearney Hub, Renewal, \$4,310.39. Nichole Lawson, Bailiff, \$147.00. Lexington Chamber of Commerce, Subscriptions & Publications, \$137.50. Lexington Regional Health Center, Medical, \$5,334.73. Lexington Utilities System, Utilities, \$13,480.86. McKesson Medical- Surgical, Medical Supplies, \$1,406.17. NACO, Registration, \$46.00. Nebraska Gov, Records, \$17.00. NSA/POAN Conference Fund, Registration, \$200.00. O'Reilly Automotive Inc., Parts, \$106.24. Overton Veterinary

Services, Boarding, \$57.64. Pacesetter K9 LLC, K-9, \$4,000.00. Physicians Laboratory PC, Monthly Services, \$1,200.00. Plum Creek Market Place, Supplies, \$16.27. Prosource Specialties LLC, Supplies, \$636.95. Psychological Resources, Service, \$150.00. Rapid Fire Protection, Supplies, \$285.00. Ray Allen MFG, LLC, Supplies, \$545.96. S & W Auto Parts, Parts, \$276.98. Stamm Romero & Associates, PC, LLO, Legal Services, \$468.75. State of NE Dept Correctional SVCS, Safekeeper, \$3,914.19. State of NE- Admin Services- Central, Monthly Fees, \$430.75. Summit Food Services, LLC, Meals, \$12,760.73. Syndicate Publishing, Publications, \$146.27. Teds Truck & Auto, Maintenance, \$225.60. U Save Business, Supplies, \$1,437.94. U Save Pharmacy, Supplies, \$15.25. Visa- Pinnacle Bank, Meals, Fuel, \$923.78. Visa- Pinnacle Bank, Meals, Fuel, Lodging, \$1,675.15. Visa- Pinnacle Bank, Supplies, \$323.03. TOTAL: \$140,701.76. ROADS VENDOR CLAIMS: ASK Supply Co LLC, Supplies, \$719.00. Bomgaars Supply Accts Receivable, Shop Supplies, \$1,119.83. Clear Live LLC, Monthly Services, \$17.30. Lawson Products Inc, Shop Supplies, \$26.22. Lexington Utilities System, Utilities, \$419.78. Paulsen, Inc., Gravel & Borrow, \$106,049.45. Titan Machinery- Lexington, Parts & Repair, \$1,448.86. U Save Business, Office Supplies, \$239.11. Viaero Wireless, Inter-

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# Legals

net, \$125.00. WPCI, Screening, \$35.00. TOTAL: \$110,199.55. UNEMPLOYMENT COMP VENDOR CLAIMS: . Nebraska UC Fund, Insurance, \$564.00. TOTAL: \$564.00. COUNTY INS. VENDOR CLAIMS: Pinnacle Bank, Petty Cash, \$39,889.22. TOTAL: \$39,889.22. CASA VENDOR CLAIMS: Robert Crandall, Mileage, \$36.40. TOTAL: \$36.40. INHERITANCE TAX VENDOR CLAIMS: Dawson County Treasurer, Transfer, \$205,000.00. TOTAL: \$205,000.00. E-911 VENDOR CLAIMS: ATC Communications, E-911 Monthly Services, \$116.15. CenturyLink, Monthly Services, \$927.50. TOTAL: \$1,043.65. CED VENDOR CLAIMS: HD Supply Formerly Home Depot Pro, Supplies, \$137.30. TOTAL: \$137.30. NOXIOUS WEED VENDOR CLAIMS: Lexington Utilities System, Utilities, \$137.19. Platte Valley WMA, Dues, \$1,000.00. S & W Auto Parts, Repair, \$199.24. TOTAL: \$1,336.43. INVENTORY MAINT. VENDOR CLAIMS: . Cash-Wa Distributing, Commissary Supplies, \$173.10. Charm-Tex Inc. , Commissary Supplies, \$347.60. Keefe Supply Company, Commissary Supplies, \$1,416.82. Spectrum Enterprise, Monthly Services, \$311.23. U Save Business, Supplies, \$1,060.29. TOTAL: \$3,309.04. GENERAL PAYROLL CLAIMS: General , Salaries , \$595,464.07. EFTPS, FICA, \$54,481.59. Ameritas, Retirement, \$51,302.62. Point C, Health Insurance, \$42,833.08. Dawson County, Health Insurance, \$143,699.76. Deductions, Misc. , \$1,122.38. CIL, Misc. , \$4,000.00. TOTAL: \$892,903.50. ROAD PAYROLL CLAIMS: Road, Salaries, \$136,230.53. Deductions, Misc. , \$100.00. CIL, General, \$-3,500.00. TOTAL: \$132,830.53. COUNTY INS. CLAIM FUND . Reimbursements, Fitness, \$323.19. TOTAL: \$323.19. CASA PAYROLL CLAIMS: CASA, Salaries, \$8,681.12. EFTPS, FICA, \$641.23. Ameritas, Retirement, \$552.23. DC, Health Insurance,

\$1,301.82. Employee Deductions, Misc. , \$207.40. CIL, General, \$-500.00. TOTAL: \$10,883.80. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FUND. Expense reimbursements, Misc. , \$17.99. TOTAL: \$17.99. DISPATCH PAYROLL CLAIMS: Communications, Salaries, \$52,345.29. EFTPS, FICA, \$3,697.88. Ameritas, Retirement, \$3,527.92. DC, Insurance, \$20,060.75. TOTAL: \$79,631.84. NOXIOUS WEED PAYROLL CLAIMS: Noxious Weed, Salaries, \$11,071.11. Deductions, Misc. , \$362.80. TOTAL: \$11,433.91. Citizen's comments: Tucker Case commented on distress warrants. Committee Reports: ARPA: None. Courthouse Remodel update: Brian Woldt, Emergency Manager gave brief update. Elaine Menzel with NACO was present and provided an update. Mike Nevriy with Nebraska Keno, Inc. was present and discussed Nebraska Keno, Inc. William Kurtenbach and Paul Schumacher with Nebraska Cooperative Government were present in person and by zoom, respectively and discussed NCG. Oscar De La Torre with 321 Tavern also spoke briefly. No action taken. Motion was made and seconded to table the matter. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Brian Woldt, Emergency Manager discussed Kidwell request for payment of half of door lock system recently approved. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2025-32 for said payments to be made. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. The budget committee presented the 2025-26 County Budgets. Brian Woldt, Emergency Manager reported on 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Motion was made and seconded to authorize Brian Woldt to apply for EMPG grant. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. At 10:04 a.m. Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing regarding Conditional Use Permit filed by Paul Reed Con-

struction on behalf of Wilke Land, LLC to allow for a mining and excavation operation on a 59.98 acre tract in the NW¼ of Section 4, Township 9, Range 22 West of the 6th PM, Dawson County, NE. Mark Christiansen, Zoning Administrator and representatives of Paul Reed Construction spoke. Commissioner Richeson asked that safety be of the utmost importance on this project. At 10:08 a.m. Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Conditional Use Permit filed by Paul Reed Construction on behalf of Wilke Land, LLC and approve Resolution 2025-33. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. At 10:08 a.m. Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing regarding Conditional Use Permit filed by Shiloh Schultz to allow for the operation of a family child care home II, a preschool, and a private school on a 7.30 acre tract in the NE¼ of Section 16, Township 12, Range 25 West of the 6th PM, Dawson County, NE. Mark Christiansen, Zoning Administrator spoke. Shiloh Schultz was present. At 10:10 a.m. Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Conditional Use Permit filed by Shiloh Schultz and approve Resolution 2025-34. Aye: 3. Nay: 0. Motion carried. EMPLOYEES SALARIES & JOB DESCRIPTIONS PURSUANT TO 23-122: Commissioner-Chairman \$2,416.67; 4 Commissioner Members \$2,333.33; County Clerk \$7,350.97; Deputy County Clerk \$4,919.72; 1 Claims Deputy \$25.00 hr. 1 Election Clerk \$18.00 hr.; County Treasurer \$6,809.30; Deputy County Treasurer \$4,970.78; 1 Motor Vehicle Supervisor \$19.00 hr.; 1 Title Clerk \$17.00 hr.; 1 Motor Vehicle Clerk \$17.00 hr.; 1 Real Estate Clerk \$23.50 hr.; 1 Real Estate Clerk \$18.75 hr.; Register of Deeds Official \$6,809.30; Deputy

Register of Deeds \$4,902.70; Register of Deeds Clerk \$18.25 hr.; 1 Zoning Administrator P/T \$1,411.49; County Assessor \$6,809.30; Deputy County Assessor \$5,038.70; 1 Real Estate Manager \$23.50 hr.; 1 Homestead Exemption Clerk \$18.00 hr.; 1 Real Estate Lister \$21.00 hr.; Assessor Data Entry Clerk \$16.00 hr.; District Court Clerk Official \$6,809.30; District Court Clerk Deputy \$4,766.52; 1 District Court Secretary/Clerk \$19.75 hr.; 1 District Court Secretary/Clerk \$18.25 hr.; 1 District Judge Bailiff/Clerk \$21.00 hr.; 1 Public Defender \$10,190.81; 1 Assistant Public Defender \$8,356.44; 1 Public Defender Secretary/Clerk \$17.50 hr.; 1 Public Defender Secretary/Clerk \$16.50 hr.; 1 Child Support/Attorney \$8,750.00; 1 Child Support Of-

fice Manager \$5,068.46; 1 Child Support Clerk \$23.00 hr.; 1 Child Support Clerk \$19.00 hr.; 1 Child Support Clerk \$18.00 hr.; 1 Custodian \$18.00 hr.; 1 Maintenance \$27.08 hr.; 1 Maintenance \$21.00 hr.; 1 Extension 4-H Assistant \$19.23 hr.; 1 Extension Clerk \$16.90 hr.; County Sheriff \$8,766.67; Chief Deputy Sheriff \$7,214.48; 2 Certified Deputies \$38.41 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$35.38 hr.; 2 Certified Deputies \$35.05 hr.; 2 Certified Deputy \$334.85hr.; 2 Certified Deputies \$33.81 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$33.33 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$33.31 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$32.25 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$31.36 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$31.25 hr.; 2 Certified Deputies \$31.00 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$30.37 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$30.28 hr.; 1 Certified

Deputies \$30.25 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$30.08 hr.; 3 Certified Deputies \$30.00 hr.; 2 Certified Deputy \$28.30 hr.; 1 Certified Deputy \$27.18 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$27.09 hr.; 2 Non-Certified Deputies \$27.05 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$25.05 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$24.77 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$23.10 hr.; 3 Non-Certified Deputies \$22.64; 2 Non-Certified Deputies \$22.25 hr.; 3 Non-Certified Deputies \$22.15 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$22.00 hr.; 3 Non-Certified Deputies \$21.90 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$21.75 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$21.50 hr.; 1 Non-Certified Deputy \$21.00 hr.; 1 Administrative Assistant \$25.25 hr.; 2 Clerical Clerks \$20.00 hr.; 1 Clerical Clerk \$19.25 hr.; 1 Custodian \$17.26 hr.; 1 Correc-

## NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Cozad Cemetery District #6  
IN  
County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions as State Statute section 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 18th day of August 2024 at 7:00pm at the Old Depot for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget. The budget detail is available at the office of the clerk during regular business hours.

2023-2024 Actual Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 8,500.00
2024-2025 Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 8,700.00
2025-2026 Proposed Budget of Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 9,000.00
2025-2026 Necessary Cash Reserve	\$ 123.91
2025-2026 Total Resources Available	\$ 8,923.91
Total 2025-2026 Personal & Real Property Tax Requirement	\$ 6,963.90
Unused Budget Authority Created For Next Year	\$ 1,960.01

### Breakdown of Property Tax:

Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Non-Bond Purposes	\$ 6,963.90
Personal and Real Property Tax Required for Bonds	\$ -



# Legals

tions Nurse \$42.50 hr.; County Attorney \$10,957.85; 1 Chief Deputy County Attorney \$9,833.33; 2 Deputy County Attorneys \$8,750.00; 1 County Attorney Office Manager \$5,165.53; 1 County Attorney Secretary \$22.00 hr.; 1 County Attorney Secretary \$18.00 hr.; 3 County Attorney Secretaries (Temp/PT) \$18.00 hr.; Emergency Management Officer \$5,160.33; Surveyor \$6,809.30; 1 Surveyor Assistant/Office Manager \$26.78 hr.; Veteran Service Officer \$23.52 hr.; 1 Veteran Service Clerical \$17.00 hr.; Highway Superintendent \$6,809.30; 1 Highway Supervisor \$5,435.94; 1 Highway Supervisor \$4,430.57; 1 Road Office Manager/Administrator \$21.88 hr.; 1 Road Office Administrator P/T \$21.88 hr.; 1 Maintenance Worker \$28.37 hr.; 13 Maintenance Workers \$24.57 hr.; 2 Maintenance Workers \$24.02 hr.; 1 Maintenance Worker \$23.50 hr.; 4 Maintenance Workers \$22.92 hr.; 1 Maintenance Worker \$22.40 hr.; 3 Maintenance Workers \$21.88; 1 Maintenance Worker \$19.88 hr.; CASA Director P/T \$23.00 hr.; 1 CASA Assistant \$22.84 hr.; 1 CASA Assistant \$16.00 hr.; Victim Witness Advocate \$29.12 hr.; 1 Dispatch Manager \$32.09 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$29.57 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$28.12 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$27.90 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$25.71 hr.; 2 Dispatchers \$25.46 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$24.94 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$23.25 hr.; 1 Dispatcher \$20.25; 1 Dispatcher \$20.00 hr.; Noxious Weed Superintendent \$4,583.33; 1 Clerk/Secretary \$3,794.28; 1 Sprayer P/T \$20.00 hr.; 1 Sprayer P/T \$19.00 hr.; 1 Sprayer P/T \$18.00 hr.; 5 Weed Board Members \$25.00 meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. I, Michaela Arndt, County Clerk in and for Dawson County, hereby certify that all the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours prior to said meeting. That the minutes of the County Commissioners of Dawson County, NE., from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all media requesting notification concerning the meeting of said body were provided advance notice of the time and place of said meeting and subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Michaela Arndt  
Dawson County Clerk  
Kevin Swanson, Chairman  
Aug. 7, 2025  
(508) znez

# Classifieds

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Full Time
- Pre-Op/PACU RN**  
PRN
- Certified Surgical Technician**
- Director of Nursing**  
Sign-On Bonus

- Human Resources Director**
- Pharmacist**  
Part-Time
- Quality Director**
- Respiratory Therapist**  
Part-Time

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Game Page

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

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born on August 19, 1963 in California. I earned my first role on a popular soap opera set in a hospital despite not reading for a specific part during my audition. I'm best known as a TV uncle with great hair and for having impressive skills behind a drum kit.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Mongolian politician

5. Coconut palms

10. Rounded knob

14. Japanese city

15. Covers in soft material

16. Walk around

17. Ancient region in Syria

18. French painter

19. Grandmother

20. Cow part

22. Rocky peak

23. Secret plan

24. Sings to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)

30. Father

31. Chinese philosophical principle

32. Hat

35. In agreement

37. A person's brother or sister

38. Evil spirit

39. Monetary units

40. Partner to cheese

41. About Sun

42. A place to dance

43. Performer \_\_\_ Lo Green

Weekly Crossword Sponsored by:

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

44. Beach accessory

45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)

46. Partly digested food

47. Pooch

48. Honorific title added to family name

49. Salts

52. Lichens genus

55. Lowest point of a ridge

56. Type of sword

60. Albanian language

61. Gold measurement

63. Italian seaport

64. Longtime late night host

65. Extremely angry

66. U. of Miami mascot

67. Mid-month day

68. Omitted from printed matter

69. Upper body part
28. Dyes

29. Cloying sweetness

32. Soft drinks

33. Capital of Guam

34. Chemical compound

36. The bill in a restaurant

37. Car mechanics group

38. Late comedian Newhart

40. Health care for the aged

41. Wise individuals

43. A passage with access only at one end

44. Trim

46. Former OSS

47. The upper surface of the mouth

49. Edible lily bulbs

50. Type of reef

51. Vaccine developer

52. Mottled citrus fruit

53. A place to store lawn tools

54. Rare goose native to Hawaii

57. Hollywood pig

58. Musician Clapton

59. Take a chance

61. Spanish soldier

62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth

2. Cooking ingredient

3. Iranian city

4. Publicly outs

5. Steep-sided hollow

6. Spoke

7. General law or rule

8. Extravagantly theatrical

9. Very fast airplane

10. Arm bones

11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

12. \_\_\_ fide: legitimate

13. Gemstone

21. Counsels

23. Top exec

25. Cool!

26. Touch lightly

27. Extract money via taxation

SOLUTIONS 07-31-2025

9	5	2	8	3	1	4	6	7
4	6	8	2	9	7	3	5	1
1	3	7	5	6	4	2	8	9
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T	A	C	T	I	L	E				I	N	K	B	L
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			T	H	E			T	A	N		L	E	I
			Y	E	T			A	R	E		E	R	N

100 E 8th St.  
Cozad, NE

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – Aug 14<sup>th</sup>

Freakier Friday, PG

The Bad Guys 2, PG

The Naked Gun, PG-13

Open Daily!

Matinees on Saturday & Sunday  
See website for dates and times

SOLUTION 07-31-2025

Guess Who?

Answer: Michelle Yeoh



from FRONT - Just Be Kind

The Muergerl's shared that the biggest highlight for them was seeing people sitting around, catching up with friends and neighbors, and enjoying the live bands.

Jack and LeAnn Muegerl, along with the employees of Jack's Welding and many other volunteers, worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event. In a heartfelt thank you, Jack shared, "We are incredibly grateful for all the support. Every dollar raised will make a difference, and we're thankful to everyone who showed up, donated, volunteered, or helped spread the word."

In honor of the Koch family, approximately \$6,200 from the fundraiser will be donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Nebraska, chosen by the Koch family as the recipient of the event's funds. This special gesture emphasized the true spirit of the day, bringing people together for a worthy cause and making a difference in the community.

"The event was meaningful in so many ways, bringing people together to honor Jeremy, Bailey, Hudson, and Asher while also raising awareness for mental health," they shared.



Lines were long but quick as everyone enjoyed the all-you-can-eat BBQ and sides on Saturday, Aug. 2, helping raise awareness for mental health at the event held at Jack's Welding and Machine Shop.



Sweetwater opened the night's live entertainment at the Just Be Kind fundraiser in honor of the Koch family last weekend.



The .308 BBQ team led by Dallas Maack (middle) served up delicious brisket and ribs, earning first place in the J.B.K. BBQ competition. Bridget Patterson (left) and Dave Mead (right) along with Jacoby Loftin, and Tyrene Maack helped prepare the meats. (LOCAL Photos by M.C. Lewis)



Central Plains  
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

Monthly  
Grief Support Group



Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup>  
2:00pm



Central Plains Home Health & Hospice  
835 Meridian Ave. Cozad, NE 69130