



Gavin Guerra completed 150 hours of service on his Eagle Scout project, working with Troop 177 members to install lake signs at Gallagher Canyon, Johnson Lake, and Midway Lake. (Courtesy Photo)

Guerra Reaches Scouting's Highest Honor with Eagle Rank

LIZ ROMERO

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout marks the highest achievement in Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts of America) and on Jan. 18, Cozad junior Gavin Guerra reached that milestone. Guerra, 17, is the oldest son of Jay and Amber Guerra and a member of Troop 177 in Gothenburg.

Guerra received the honor during an Eagle Scout Court of Honor held at the Cozad

Elks Club. Troop leader Logan Ricley and Ryan Banzhaf led the ceremony recognizing his advancement to Eagle Scout.

Only about six percent of Scouts BSA members earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Guerra now joins approximately 2.75 million Eagle Scouts nationwide since the organization began over 100 years ago in 1912, out of an estimated 130 million members who have participated in the

program.

Guerra began his Scouting journey when he was six years old with the Cozad Cub Scouts before transferring to Boy Scout Troop 177 in Gothenburg. His love of the outdoors, dedication to learning new skills, and desire to make new friends have driven his continued participation since

cont. PAGE 3 - Scout

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
Jared Crick
Cozad NE 308-784-4346

Weather Forecast

Feb. 6: 60/26	
Feb. 7: 64/28	
Feb. 8: 59/29	
Feb. 9: 62/31	
Feb. 10: 52/28	
Feb. 11: 48/26	
Feb. 12: 48/24	



PAGE 4 - Health Page



PAGE 6 - Barber Back in Town



PAGE 10 - High School Sports

Being Chronically Late is Worth a Fortune

I am almost always late picking up my kid from school. Consistently embarrassingly late. Occasionally "completely forgot" late. Most days, the pickup reminder comes in the form of a phone call from him, letting me know he's still there, waiting, talking smack about me to his para or teacher.

The thing is, pickup happens at the same time every day. Every. Single. Day. Who knew, right? I've set reminders on my phone. I've set reminders on my computer. I've tried alarms, task lists, calendar blocks, the whole productivity influencer starter pack. None of it sticks.

Thankfully, the school, especially his paras and teachers, are incredibly understanding. Or at least laughing about it, which I choose to interpret as understanding grace. But the minute they stop laughing, I will completely overanalyze it.

When I do pull up, it's usually with a breathless, rushed "I'm so sorry," like I sprinted there. We all know I did not. But the apology feels important, enough that it makes my heart race.

It took me a long time to figure out how I could ignore so many reminders so consistently. What I've realized is that uninterrupted time has become rare currency. I get so few minutes where no one needs something, asks a question, interrupts a thought, or requires immediate attention. When that interruption happens, I don't return to the original task; I just grab the next one that feels urgent. Work, laundry, emails, a shower.

I can be mid-article, fully in a sentence, and have to stop because someone needs something. And I don't know about you, but my brain refuses to type coher-

Liz Romero



ent thoughts while listening to someone else talk. It's not multitasking; it's mental sabotage. So when I finally get uninterrupted time, I guard it fiercely. I stretch it. I pretend nothing else exists. I don't even pet the dogs while reading because once they nudge my hand, it's over. Page lost. Focus gone. Starting from the top. Because of that, I try to extend every quiet moment as long as humanly possible, sometimes longer than is responsible.

Last week, that caught up with me. My kid was sick, missed school, and I completely forgot he had an orthodontist appointment. For a brief, terrible moment, I considered taking him anyway. One less appointment to reschedule. One less thing to manage. Then the guilt kicked in, the very real possibility of exposing a baby or someone immunocompromised snapped me

back to reality. I rescheduled. Again.

I sat in it. The frustration. The self-judgment. The worry that I look like the mom who can't get it together, who always needs to move things, who is always late or changing plans. I was deep in my feelings.

Then, as life likes to do, I got smacked with perspective while reaching for a glass.

Tucked into the crack of my kitchen cupboard was a fortune cookie slip that's been there for three years. "BE GENTLE WITH YOURSELF, YOU'RE DOING THE BEST YOU CAN."

My daughter got that fortune years ago and loved it so much she wedged it into the cupboard. I remember thinking I'd throw it away later. I didn't. I forgot. It just became part of the cupboard.

Closing the cupboard must have jostled it for the final time because it floated down onto the counter.

At first, I smiled, thinking of her and the whole silly reason it was still there. Then I reread it. And honestly, that was enough. Enough to be okay with rescheduling. Enough to forgive being consistently late. Enough to cut myself a little slack.

I flipped it over and briefly wondered if I was supposed to play the lottery instead; maybe that was the real message. I decided against it for two reasons. One, I've never played anything that doesn't involve scratching with a nickel. And two, if I won millions, my husband would convince me it's unnecessary to force my sister to quit her job and become my full-time chauffeur, and that would take all the fun out of it.

So I put the fortune back because in another three years, it might just come in handy again.

So this week's column is about keeping the fortune, the reminder that as long as you are giving your all, it doesn't matter how many times you have to reschedule. Next week might be about how my dog's tail knocked over my vacuum a few days ago, and it's still lying on its side in the hall. I don't know, stick around, and we'll find out together. Just stick around, I want you here.

A tardy friend, Liz

LOCAL Weekly Deadlines:

Ads

sales@cozadlocal.com
Friday at 4:00 pm

Content

liz@cozadlocal.com
Friday at 4:00 pm

Legals

cozadlocal@cozadlocal.com
Friday at 4:00 pm

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Letters to the Editor

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

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from FRONT - Scout

2014. Over the years, he has gained many skills that will serve him well in life.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a member must complete 21 merit badges, including 14 required ones, serve in a leadership role for at least six months, and plan and lead a major service project, all before turning 18. This rigorous process highlights the commitment, leadership, and dedication required to reach Scouting's highest rank.

Guerra serves as Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) for Troop 177 and the role of Troop Guide. He has earned 25 merit badges, displaying his high level of dedication and engagement with the program.

Among his badges, his Wilderness Survival merit badge stands out as one of the rarest. For it, he spent a night outdoors, built a shelter from natural materials, prepared a survival kit, started a fire without matches, and learned how to treat injuries such as dehydration and hypothermia.

Guerra's favorite badge is his Fly-Fishing badge. To earn it, he had to safely handle hooks, identify hazards, master knots such as arbor, nail, and clinch, and tie at least two types of flies. He also successfully casted from 30 feet and caught a fish using a fly.

The badge he found most challenging was Citizenship in Society. Guerra explained that earning this badge requires self-reflection, discussing difficult situations with counselors, and exploring ways to promote inclusivity, equality, equity, and diversity.

To complete his Eagle Scout requirements, Guerra combined his love of fishing with his passion for service by planning and executing a major community project. He chose to build fishing signs displaying "The Day's Catch" at Johnson Lake, Midway Lake, and Gallagher Canyon.

Guerra then sought approval from the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and Nebraska Game and Parks to place additional signage at each of the three lakes, with their name,



Gavin Guerra became an Eagle Scout on Jan. 18, joining the six percent of Scouts BSA who earn the rank. (LOCAL Photo)

inspired by signs he had seen at other lakes. He devoted a total of 125 hours to planning, coordinating, and installing the signs, demonstrating leadership and commitment to giving back

After completing all of his requirements, Guerra faced his Eagle Scout board of review. "It was challenging because they asked me a bunch of different questions about my Scouting knowledge," he shared. "They even asked me to tie several different knots."

Guerra's love of the outdoors and fishing has extended beyond Scouting. He started his own bait business, Big G's Bait, last year. Located at the family home at 1520 Ave B in Cozad, the idea came to him last spring when he realized he had to drive to another town to buy bait.

"He is very ambitious," said his mom, Amber. Guerra developed a business plan, presented it to his parents, obtained a license from Nebraska Game and Parks, and began selling bait in April. "He manages all day-to-day operations and inventory of minnows, leeches, and worms, and he enjoys talking with customers about their fishing trips," Amber added.

Looking ahead, Guerra would like to attend college to pursue a career as a Wildlife Conservation Officer (Game Warden), showing the same dedication and initiative that helped him earn Eagle Scout. "We are extremely proud of Gavin for his determination and commitment to achieve the rank of Eagle," said Amber and Jay Guerra.

If you would like to support Guerra, be sure to check out Big G's Bait. Congratulations, Gavin, thank you for setting an example for the Cozad and surrounding towns community!



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Medical Minute sponsored by CozadCommunity HEALTH SYSTEM

A New Year Reminder from the CCHS Business Office

SUZANNE DOUDNEY, CCHS DIRECTOR OF REVENUE CYCLE

As we begin a new year, Cozad Community Health System would like to share a few important reminders from our Business Office to help make your visits and billing experience as smooth as possible.

Insurance coverage often changes at the start of the year due to new plans, updated policy numbers, or changes in coverage through employers or providers. Because of this, we ask that all patients present their current insurance card at each visit, even if you have been seen recently. This helps ensure your information is accurate and allows us to bill your insurance correctly and in a timely manner.

It's also important to remember that annual deductibles reset on Jan. 1 for most insurance plans. This means patients may see higher out of pocket costs early in the year until their deductible has

been met. If you have questions about your deductible, coverage, or expected patient responsibility, our team is happy to help explain what to expect.

Patients are encouraged to take advantage of MyCareCorner, our secure patient portal. Through MyCareCorner, you can access your medical records, review statements, and manage your account from the convenience of home.

Anyone in the Business Office can assist you with getting signed up if you are not already enrolled. Online bill pay is also available by visiting www.cozadhealthcare.com and selecting the Online Bill Pay option, or directly through MyCareCorner.

CCHS offers several flexible payment options to help meet the needs of our patients and families. Additional details can be found on our website,

or you can speak directly with Reilly or Shelby in our Patient Financial Services department. They are available to help you explore payment plans, financial assistance options, and our local bank loan program.

We are also excited to introduce a new payment option launching this month called AblePay, which allows for easy, convenient, zero-interest payment plans.

If you prefer in person assistance or have questions about your account, patients are always welcome to stop by the hospital at 300 East 12th Street or call 308-784-2261 and ask for Reilly or Shelby. Our Business Office team is here to provide personalized support and help you navigate your healthcare billing with confidence.

Monthly Grief Support Group

Thursday February 12th
2:00pm

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

FEBRUARY VISITING SPECIALIST SCHEDULE

ORTHOPEDIC Dr. Scott Lukens - February 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd Dr. Mandip Singh - February 3 rd	CARDIOLOGY Dr. Bassent Botros - February 19 th Dr. Kevin Hall - February 5 th Dr. Rick Heirigs - February 4 th Dr. Daniel McGowan - February 2 nd , 16 th
PAIN SPECIALITY Bryan Messbarger, APRN - February 18 th Dr. Burt Mckeag (Surgery) - February 6 th	GYNECOLOGY Dr. Lindstedt-Easterday - Feb 12 th
PODIATRY Dr. Joshua Wray - February 10 th , 24 th	NEPHROLOGY Dr. Imtiaz Islam - February 17 th
GENERAL SURGERY Dr. Jeffery Merz - February 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th Dr. Michael Simonson - February 6 th , 20 th Dr. Jacob Wiesen - February 13 th , 27 th	ONCOLOGY Dr. Laxmi Buddharaju - February 19 th Dr. Cynthia Lewis - February 25 th
PULMONOLOGY Melissa Hoferer, APRN- February 3 rd , 17 th	UROLOGY Dr. Jose Q De Guzman - February 12 th

AGRICULTURE



Open Application for Nebraska Ag Youth Institute

COZAD LOCAL

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is currently accepting applications from high school juniors and seniors for the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI).

NAYI is one of Nebraska's largest agriculture youth outreach events. This five-day program brings students together, offering networking opportunities with ag leaders and a chance to learn more about the industry, discover careers and make new friends. NDA helps sponsor and coordinate NAYI every year. This year's theme is "Passion Meets Purpose."

NAYI will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus July 6-10. Current high school juniors and seniors interested in attending must apply online at www.nda.nebraska.gov/nayi. All applications must be submitted by April 15.

"NAYI is a long-standing tradition in Nebraska agriculture and a one-of-a-kind opportunity for high school students to connect with peers from around the state," said NDA Director Sherry Vinton. "It is one of the best ways for students to learn more about Nebraska's diverse agricultural industry and the hard-working people who help make our ag industry great."

NAYI features motivational speakers, discussions on agricultural issues, career development, net-

working opportunities, leadership activities, a farm management game, a formal banquet and awards presentation, and a dance. In its 55th year, NAYI is the longest running agricultural youth program of its kind in the nation. More than 225 students attended NAYI last year.

NDA selects students to attend NAYI based on their leadership skills, interests and involvement in agriculture. Students attend NAYI free of charge due to generous donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations.

Space is limited. Those interested in helping sponsoring NAYI can visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/NAYIsponsors> for more information.

NAYI is coordinated by the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council, which is comprised of 21 college-aged students selected by NDA for their passion and interest in the ag industry. The Council's purpose is to provide young Nebraskans with a better understanding of agriculture, including agricultural opportunities available to today's youth.

Market Report

For the Week Ending Feb. 2, 2025

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices,
Omaha-Council Bluffs
US NO 2 YELLOW CORN: \$3.76-4.38
US NO 1 SOYBEANS: \$9.45-9.70



Livestock Weighted Average Report for Feb. 2, 2025

STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Wt. Range - 650-699; Avg Wt - 673; Price Range - \$389.50-444.00; Avg Price - \$427.12

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Wt. Range - 650-699; Avg Wt - 674; Price Range - \$361.00-409.00; Avg Price - \$386.93



UPCOMING EVENTS: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5th - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

5 THUR	6 FRI	7 SAT	8 SUN	9 MON	10 TUES	11 WED
8AM-4PM The Creativity & Spontaneity Stock-Up @ Haymaker Creative District 6:30PM Boy Scouts Pack Meeting @ Cozad Church of Christ	TBA G & B Wrestling - Away 8AM-4PM The Creativity & Spontaneity Stock-Up @ Haymaker Creative District 11AM - Storytime @ WPL 5:30PM G&B BB Home 5:30PM Souper Bowl @ Cozad GGC	TBA G & B BB Wrestling - Away 	Scout Sunday @ Church of Choice (Duty to God)	10AM Free Groceries @ GGC 6PM Cozad Community Leaders Meeting	1:15PM Foot Clinic @ GGC 	10AM Free Groceries @ GGC FFA CDE #2



Don Berry Returns to the Chair After Eight-Year

LIZ ROMERO

After eight years away, a familiar face has returned to the back of a barber chair in Cozad. Don Berry, a longtime local barber whose career spans more than five decades, has resumed cutting hair part time, bringing his steady hands and familiar conversation back to the community he served for generations.

Berry began his barbering career in 1974, working alongside Al Seabert at the barber shop on 8th Street. Under Seabert's guidance, Berry built his skills and earned the trust of customers of all ages. When Seabert retired, Berry purchased the shop, continuing a tradition that had long been part of daily life in Cozad.

For 46 years, Berry owned and operated the beloved barber shop, welcoming customers from across the community. About eight years ago, Berry made the decision to retire and focus on his health. "I knew it was time to focus on my health and get my asthma under control, so I retired," Berry said.

He sold the barber shop to Jim Brown and stepped away from the daily clippers, a change that allowed him to concentrate on feeling better. With his health improved and time on his hands, Berry found retire-

ment did not suit him for long.

"I feel really good now, and I am bored in retirement," Berry said. "I decided it was time to go back and work part time."

Berry now cuts hair at Porter Hair Company, thanks to the support of owner Aaron Porter, who opened his space to the returning barber. Berry said he appreciates the opportunity and enjoys being back at work doing what he knows best.

Porter Hair Company, located at 604 Avenue D in Cozad, has welcomed Berry and his returning customers. The shop provides a familiar setting for those who have known Berry for years, as well as a chance for new customers to meet a local barber with deep roots.

Berry accepts walk-ins on Tuesdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-5 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

With clippers back in hand, Berry said he looks forward to reconnecting with friends and serving Cozad once again. Community members are encouraged to stop in, say hello, and welcome Don back to the chair.



Don Berry accepts walk-ins again as he returns to the chair at Porter Hair Company, 604 Avenue D in Cozad. (LOCAL Photo)

Cozad LOCAL Christmas Card Winners Announced



Kamden Kugler (left) earned first place in the Cozad LOCAL's fifth-grade Christmas Card Contest with his Fox Theater drawing, which judges selected for its creativity and attention to detail. Quinn Smith (center) placed third with her Smith Farms greeting card, recognized for its creativity. Palmer Wilkins (right) earned second place with her Balanced Body Chiropractic and Acupuncture design, noted for its clean and neat presentation. Each student received a gift certificate and Chamber Bucks.

Cozad Comm. Leaders

Cake & Silent AUCTION

FEBRUARY 12TH 2026

Cozad Elks Club
820 J Street - North Door

- Drop off items - 7:30am to 9am
- Bidding - 9am to 5:45pm
- Anyone can donate and/or bid
- \$100 Buy Now Option
- All items must be paid for and picked up IMMEDIATELY following the event

All Money raised will benefit
South Central
Developmental Services

Obituary

Marjorie "Marge" Arlene (Edwards) Allison, 101 of Cozad, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Meadowlark Pointe Assisted Living in Cozad on Jan. 22, 2026.

Marge was born to John and Donna Edwards on May 3, 1924, in her Uncle Charlie and Aunt Lulu's main floor bedroom in Oconto. As the oldest of four children, hard work was instilled in Marge at an early age. She helped with cooking, household chores, farm chores, and caring for her three younger brothers, Jack, Gayle, and Dwight. She attended a country school near Oconto and later attended Cozad High School, graduating in 1942.

On Dec. 5, 1942, Marge was united in marriage to Floyd Allison. To this union, three children were born: Garland, Linda, and Karen. Floyd and Marge raised their family on a farm north of Lexington and Cozad.

Marjorie and Floyd joined Buffalo Grove Presbyterian Church northwest of Lexington on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954, and she remained a faithful member until her death.

Marge spent countless hours outside tending her vegetable and flower gardens and helping Floyd on the farm.

In 1969, they moved into Lexington. Her love and talent for gardening eventually led her to work for Holen Floral, where she continued until retiring in her late 70's. While working at the floral shop, she remained a devoted farm wife, and especially loved driving the

Farmall tractor. Marge and Floyd enjoyed traveling together, visiting all 50 states and traveling abroad.

Over the years, Marge belonged to many clubs and organizations including American Legion Auxiliary, Buffalo Grove Circle, Farmers Wives Extension Club, card clubs, Lexington Grand Generation Center, Golden Rod Antique Auto

Club, "The Mermaids" aqua aerobics (which she attended 3 times a week up until the age of 95), Town and Country Garden Club, and many more. She also enjoyed being a H.O.S.T "grandma" at Morton Elementary School. Most recently she received her membership certificate in Daughters of the American Revolution.

Marge loved reading, especially her Bible, playing pitch and pinochle, collecting cardinals, coloring with markers, completing jigsaw puzzles, and working on word searches. She enjoyed participating in many of the activities at

Avamere and later Meadowlark Pointe Assisted Living facilities, where she could often be found front and center.

Marge lived a life full of joy, laughter, and purpose and cherished time spent with those who meant the most to her. Above all, her greatest love was for God. Her faith was the foundation of her life and was evident in the way she loved, the way she gave, and the way she lived. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, kindness, and unwavering faith that will continue to live on through her family and friends.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughters Linda (Delbert) Brock and Karen (Robin) Smith, both of Cozad; grandchildren Kevin Smith of Cozad, Traci (Ross) Woodside of Johnson Lake, Corey Smith of Warren, Michigan, Launa (Troy) Cumpston of Kearney, Ryan (Theresa) Brock of Monument, CO, and Nicholas (Traci) Smith of Cozad; great-grandchildren Zachery Woodside of Seattle, WA, Jacob Woodside of Denver, CO, Erika Smith of Shelton, Emily Smith of Knoxville, TN, Callie (Taylor) Otten of Sioux Falls, SD, Trevor Cumpston of Grand Island, Benjamin Cump-

ston of Lincoln, Sarah Cumpston of Hastings, Cassie Smith of Omaha, Mara Smith of Cozad, Krasen Smith of Cozad, Adeline Brock and Siena Brock both of Monument, CO; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Marge was preceded in death by her parents John and Donna Edwards; husband Floyd Allison; son Garland Allison; grandson Jason Smith; brothers Jack, Gayle, and Dwight Edwards; Sisters-in-law Viola "Babe" Edwards and Ellen Edwards; nephew Kyle Edwards, and niece Deanne Edwards.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Buffalo Grove Presbyterian Church in rural Lexington with Pastor Jill Boyd and Reverend Steve Deines co-officiating.

Graveside Services were held at the Cozad Cemetery in Cozad.

Memorials are kindly suggested to the Buffalo Grove Presbyterian Church or Donor's Choice.

Reynolds-Love Funeral Home in Lexington is honored to be assisting the family with arrangements. Please share online condolences with the family by visiting: reynoldslovefuneralhome.com.



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CCL to Host Annual Cake and Silent Auction

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

The Cozad Community Leaders (CCL) will host their annual Cake and Silent Auction at the Cozad Elks Club, 820 J Street, on Thursday, Feb. 12. Items may be dropped off from 7:30-9 a.m., with bidding from 9 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

Originally called the March of Dimes Cake Auction, the event was taken over by then, Jaycees, now CCL several years ago so proceeds could benefit local causes. Past recipients include the Hawk Recreation Center, Cozad 150th Celebration Committee, Little Disciples Preschool, and Cozad Child Care.

Last year, the Cozad Learning Adventures Child Care Center benefited, raising \$6,001 from 128 donated items. This year's proceeds will go to South Central Developmental Services (SCDS). Baked goods, crafts, and baskets are welcome. Crafts and baskets have grown in popularity, often including a mix of products, coupons, and gift cards. The CCL will continue the \$100 "Buy Now" option, allowing items to be purchased immediately for \$100.

SCDS, a non-profit founded in 1972 and incorporated in 1973, provides residential and day services for adults with developmental disabilities. Its mission is to improve quality of life by increasing productivity, self-reliance, and community involvement. The agency serves Dawson, Frontier, and Gosper counties, funded by state, federal, county resources, and private fees. Its motto is: "Together We Can Make a Difference...Freedom from Exclusion".

SCDS operates three group homes in Cozad and one

in Lexington, all staffed 24/7. Some individuals live independently with support for meals and daily routines. Day services include crafts, cooking classes, exercise activities, and making dog treats to sell.

Supported Employment helps clients find local jobs at businesses such as Sonny's, Hi-Gain Feedlot, the City of Cozad, Arnold Insurance, the Cozad Grand Generation Center, the Cozad Chamber of Commerce, Burger King, Lexington Solid Waste Office, and Lexington Strike and Spare Bowl. Community Integration programs let individuals pursue activities they enjoy and volunteer across Dawson County, including the Gothenburg Senior Center, Wilson Public Library, Cozad Food Pantry, VFW Post 890, and local churches.

SCDS encourages participation in community events, including YMCA classes, summer movie matinees at the FOX Theater, women's and men's groups at Brew'd Awakening and Big E's, coffee hours at the Green Apple Cafe, and building a float for the Hay Days Parade. The agency operates 15 vehicles, all damaged in the June 2024 hailstorm, and is gradually restoring the fleet.

Agency Administrator Laurie Preitauer reports SCDS supports 40 individuals and employs 80 staff members. Questions may be directed to CCL President Lindsey Johanson at (308) 750-4408 or cozadcommunityleaders@gmail.com. CCL members invite the community to donate or bid on items Feb. 12 to support this valued local agency.

Dawson County Commissioners Meeting to Address Audits

LIZ ROMERO

Chairman PJ Jacobson presided over the Dawson County Board of Commissioners meeting on Jan. 30. Commissioners Rod Reynolds, Bill Stewart, Joe Richeson, Kevin Swanson and Jacobson were present. County Clerk Michaela Arndt called the roll.

Commissioners approved the minutes from the Jan. 14 regular meeting and accepted the county treasurer's receipts totaling \$781,476.15. The board also approved claims in the amount of \$1,495,891.57.

Emergency Manager Brian Woldt provided an update on the continued courthouse remodel. Commissioner Richeson addressed the importance of required IT training for county officials and employees. Commissioners plan to meet with Woldt after a future meeting to ensure access to and completion of the training.

Kristen Bennett of Meridian Tap House appeared before the board to request a Special Designated License for the Cattleman's Ball, scheduled for June 5-6.

Commissioners approved the request.

Veterans Service Administrator Steve Zerr presented a Memorandum of Understanding with Tyler Technologies. Commissioners authorized Chairman Jacobson to execute the agreement.

The board appointed Brian Davis, Brian Copley and Joyce Hudson to serve as the policy board for the hiring of a public defender. Commissioners did not discuss an office location during the meeting. Richeson later toured the courthouse to review possible options.

Commissioners discussed public records requests and tabled the matter for further consideration.

The board approved a three-year audit agreement with the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts for fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Commissioners entered an executive session to discuss personnel matters and protect the public interest. The board later returned to open session, with no further business; the meeting adjourned.

Birth



Madison and Scott Sherard of Cozad announce the birth of their son on Jan. 29, 2026, at Gothenburg Health. Phoenix James Sherard was born weighing 7 pounds and 4.5 ounces and measuring 19.25 inches in length. Phoenix is welcomed by grandparents Adam Newbrey and Tyler McPeak, both of Cozad; and Amanda and Jaden Sprecher of Eustis. Great grandparents Jeff and Tammy Bonifas of Gothenburg and Shelly Jacobs of Lexington.

The family of Donna Hild expresses their heartfelt gratitude for all the condolences, flowers, and memorials they have received during this difficult time.

Donna will be remembered for her kindness and the warmth she brought to those around her.

Leslie and Pucha Dickerson

Kimberly Heimann Named Nebraska Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Kimberly Heimann, a fourth-grade teacher at Cozad Elementary School, was named the K-5 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Award winner for Nebraska at the VFW Awards Banquet held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln on Friday, Jan. 30.

Heimann spoke eloquently from the heart as she accepted her award, "Accepting this award is the most ironic thing for me, to stand up here and be thanked by veterans is a humbling experience. Because my reality is that if it weren't for each of you, your sacrifice, and dedication to our country, nothing I do would be possible. I am so thankful to live in a country where I can pursue my dreams of being a mom, wife, and teacher. I never take lightly what a privilege it is to live in this nation because of our veterans. It is an honor and blessing to instill in my students and family a love of our country and a deep appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you and God bless America."

Heimann received the VFW Post 890 local Smart/Maher award during the elementary Veterans Day program after being nominated by Director of Teaching and Learning/Assistant EL and CEEC Principal Taylor Jenner. She was then selected as the K-5 Teacher of the Year for District 13, headquartered in Kearney, which forwarded her nomination to the state VFW. The state VFW recognized Heimann for her citizenship, innovation, use of resources, and passion at its annual banquet, which she attended with her husband, Dominic. Heimann received \$100 for her classroom and \$100 for personal use.

Founded in 1899, the VFW strongly supports the education of America's youth. The VFW and its Auxiliary have developed programs dedicated to helping educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs promote interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism. The VFW recognizes that teachers care deeply about America and its children and about



Kimberly Heimann, a 4th grade teacher at Cozad Elementary School, was the proud yet humble recipient of the VFW K-5 Smart/Maher Citizenship Education award for the State of Nebraska for 2025. Kimberly received her award at the Nebraska VFW Convention banquet held at the Marriott Hotel in Lincoln on Friday, Jan. 30. (Photo Courtesy of Dominic Heimann)

preserving the nation's highest ideals.

Heimann graduated from McCook High School in 2005 and from McCook Community College in 2007 with an Associate of Arts degree. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Peru State College, with majors in Elementary Education and K-12 Physical Education. She is scheduled to complete her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Peru State this December.

Heimann began her teaching career in McCook, spending one year as a fifth-grade reading teacher and two years as a fourth-grade classroom teacher. After her husband received a promotion, the family moved to Cozad in 2015. Heimann commuted to Elwood for two years, teaching fifth grade. "I joined the Cozad Community School system in 2017 and will be here until retirement," Heimann said.

Throughout her career, Heimann has promoted America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, and patriotism in her classrooms.

While teaching in McCook, her students wrote letters to soldiers stationed overseas. "We were lucky enough that one wrote back and eventually emailed and FaceTimed with us," Heimann said. "He shared his experiences and pictures of what life was like while serving our country, and we sent him care packages."

In Elwood, Heimann partnered with a high school teacher to take his students and her fifth graders to the Majestic Theater in Lexington to watch election debates live. "We also held an election party where we watched results live and tracked the Electoral College as votes were counted," Heimann said.

In Cozad, Heimann's fourth-grade classes observe Sept. 11 with "Never Forget" activities, including educational videos, discussions about the aftermath, and a collaborative craft. For Veterans Day, she invites relatives to share their experiences. "We love seeing the pictures and hearing firsthand stories," Heimann said. "There's also special pride for students whose relatives come to share." Her students also make goodie sacks and deliver them to veterans at care homes. "It's important that we don't forget why we have all that we do—because of our veterans," she said.

On a daily basis, Heimann encourages students to show pride in their country by wearing red, white, and blue on special days. Students sing a song each morning after the pledge, rotating through "America the Beautiful," "You're a Grand Old

Flag," "God Bless America," "Beautiful Nebraska," and "The Star-Spangled Banner" on Fridays. "This is something I remember doing as a child," Heimann said. "They may have thought it was odd at first, but now they sing loud and proud."

Heimann also teaches the American Revolution, focusing on how the nation formed, why colonists sought independence, key historical figures, and major events that shaped the country.

When asked what influenced her to become a teacher, Heimann said she struggled in school but had several teachers who supported her during difficult times. "Because of them, I wanted to give back and help other students going through hard times," she said. She credited Mrs. Dueland, Mrs. Baumbach, Mr. Psota, and junior high secretary Patty Unger for their encouragement and lasting impact.

Heimann's husband, Dominic, works as a supervisor for Child and Family Services with the Department of Health and Human Services. His office is in Lexington, and he oversees Dawson and Gosper counties. The couple have two sons, Myles, a seventh grader, and Jack, who attends CEEC preschool.

The Heimanns attend their boys' activities, including cross country, swimming, basketball, baseball, and wrestling. "I love having a front-row seat to it all," Heimann said. In her free time, she enjoys reading, documentaries, walks with her husband, and watching sports, especially Husker volleyball.

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Lady Haymakers Collect Medals at SWC

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Lady Haymakers competed at the Southwest Conference Tournament in Minden on Saturday, Jan. 31, finishing fourth as a team.

Betzaida Ultera (100) earned a second-place finish after advancing to the championship match, where she fell to Ella Warburton (Minden).

Audrey Osburn (105) placed third, with her only loss coming against Izzie Longberry (McCook).

Abby Negley (115) claimed first place with a strong performance in the finals, defeating Zoe Jones (Broken Bow) by technical fall, 19-4.

Daniella Moss (120) also finished third. Moss opened with a loss to Breckynn

Edgren (Holdrege), then responded with a 21-5 technical fall over Camber Lippert (Ogallala). Moss earned a rematch with Edgren later in the tournament and secured a pin to finish the day.

Samantha Roberts (130) placed third after falling to Brinley Pohl (Minden) and rebounding with a pin over Eden Knowles (McCook).

Andrea Saravia (145) captured first place with a pin against Aemelia Valdez (Ogallala) and a 19-2 technical fall over Stormi Knight (McCook).

Head coach Tim Negley said continued dedication has led to noticeable improvement among the wrestlers who have committed to training and coaching.



Cozad Haymaker freshman Audrey Osburn continues to show strength and improvement during her first wrestling season. (LOCAL Photo by Barry Mraz)



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"They are starting to get more wins and earn medals at tournaments," Negley said.

Negley noted the team stands at a critical point in the season heading into district competition on Thursday, Feb. 6. He said wrestlers who remain focused and committed place themselves in a strong position for success, while lack of effort

continues to show in match results.

Over the past two weeks, practices have centered on individual strengths and areas for improvement.

"Everyone has different goals and things they need to work on," Negley said. "We've tried to meet those needs the best we can so each wrestler has the best chance to succeed."

Lady Haymakers Face Gothenburg in SWC Opener

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Lady Haymakers opened Southwest Conference play on Tuesday, Jan. 27, traveling to Gothenburg for a first-round matchup with the Swedes.

The Swedes set the tone early, scoring 23 points in the first quarter while holding Cozad to 6. Gothenburg continued

to build its lead in the second quarter, adding 32 points as the Lady Haymakers worked against a strong Swede defense. At halftime, Cozad regrouped and continued to compete.

Gothenburg scored 17 points in the third quarter, while Cozad found the

net for 5. The Lady Haymakers finished the game with their strongest stretch in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Swedes 8-6. Cozad took the loss, 78-19.

Aubrey Hammerlun led the Lady Haymakers with 6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Sara Howell added 5 points, including a 3-pointer, along with 3 assists. Howell also shot 100% from the free-throw line, making both attempts.

Brittlin Bussinger contributed 3

points, 1 rebound, and 3 steals. Emalyn Geiger scored 3 points, including a 3-pointer, and pulled down 3 rebounds. Ella Atchison finished with 1 point from the free-throw line. Makenna Broz also scored 1 point, led the team with 6 rebounds, and added 1 steal.

Despite the outcome, the Lady Haymakers continued to compete through all four quarters and showed determination throughout their opening-round conference game.



Aubrey Hammerlun has recorded 81 points and 90 rebounds this season, including 36 offensive and 54 defensive boards, along with 18 assists and 36 steals.



Sara Howell has recorded 45 points this season, including 9 three-pointers, she is shooting an impressive 80% from the free-throw line and contributed 21 steals for the Haymakers. (LOCAL Photos by Jennifer Walls)

Cozad Finishes Runner-Up at SWC

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Haymakers opened the week at home competing in the first round of the Southwest Conference tournament, entering play ranked second in the conference behind Ogallala.

Cozad set the tone early on Tuesday, Jan. 27, with a decisive win over the Holdrege Dusters. The Haymakers controlled the game from the opening tip, building an 18-12 lead after the first quarter and extending it to 38-23 by halftime. Cozad continued to push the pace in the second half, outscoring Holdrege in both remaining quarters to secure an 83-51 victory.

Kellen Shoemaker led the Haymakers with 28 points, accounting for more than a third of Cozad's total offense. Shoemaker connected 6 shots from beyond the 3-point line and added 2 assists and 3 steals.

Chayden Hoffmaster followed with 16 points and 7 rebounds, while Ollie Davis contributed 14 points and 5 rebounds. Gage Strauss anchored the rebounding effort, pulling down a team-high of 9 rebounds.

Cozad carried that momentum into Friday's semi-final matchup against Gothenburg. The Haymakers

jumped out to a 15-7 lead in the first quarter and maintained control throughout the game. Cozad led 28-18 at halftime and 42-30 after three quarters before closing out a 59-47 win to advance to the championship round.

Shoemaker again paced the scoring with just shy of half the points with 24, including 6 three-pointers and 4 points from the free-throw line. Hoffmaster added 14 points and 3 rebounds, with 4 of his points coming at the line. Davis finished with 10 points and 5 rebounds, while Strauss recorded 9 points, 9 rebounds, and 3 assists to round out a balanced team effort.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, the Haymakers met Ogallala for the SWC championship. The Indians, undefeated on the season, handed Cozad its second loss of the year with a 79-48 final, ending the Haymakers' 7 game winning streak. Despite stats not available, the Haymakers left all their energy on the court. The game mirrored an earlier January meeting when Ogallala also stopped the Haymakers lengthy 11 game win streak.



Kellen Shoemaker led the Cozad Haymakers in scoring throughout the Southwest Conference Tournament, held Jan. 27-31. Shoemaker paced the offense in all three games, including strong perimeter shooting that helped Cozad advance to the championship round. (LOCAL Photo by Jennifer Walls)

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Cheer Team Has Steller Performance at Competition

The Cozad High School cheer team competed at Lexington High School's sixth annual Cheer and Dance Competition on Saturday, Jan. 31. The team earned first place in Non-Tumbling, placed fifth in Game Day, and received the "Show Stopping Performance" Award. (Results for the dance team were not provided.) Back row, from left: Bailey Hyatt, Briley Fisher, Malory Munster, Brynna Edeal, and Riley Peck. Front row: Saryah Carter, Sadie Hosick, Clatyn Fleharty, Andrea Huntsman, and Adi Groteluschen. (Courtesy Photo)

Hasbrouck Wins Title as Haymakers Compete at Tournament

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Haymakers boys' wrestling team competed at the Raymond Central Invite on Jan. 31, highlighted by a championship performance from Drake Hasbrouck (144) and multiple deep runs through the brackets.

Wyatt Hueftle (106) advanced to the championship match after a pin over Landon Ostrander (Mount Michael Benedictine) and a technical fall over Caden McDonald (Johnson County Central), 15-0. Hueftle finished runner-up after falling to Caden Caudill (Syracuse) by major decision in the finals.

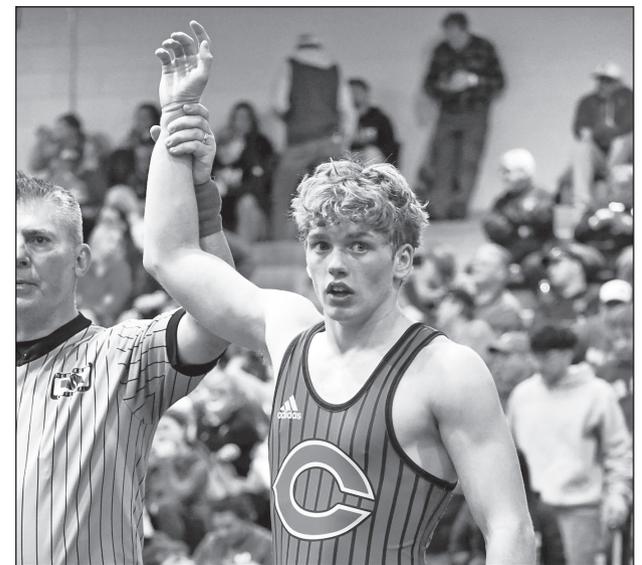
Hasbrouck (144) received a first-round bye before pinning Brian Ostrander (Mount Michael Benedictine) in the quarterfinals. He followed with a semifinal pin over Tristan Sisco (Syracuse), then secured the tournament title with a tech fall over Finley Omar (Beatrice), 18-2.

Kenneth Hernandez (132), Brenner Thayer (157), and Landon Baker (165) each competed in challenging brackets. Hernandez received a bye before falling in the quarterfinals and consolation round. Thayer and Baker also worked through the consolation rounds but came up short of placing.

Brantley Malcom (175) battled back through the consolation bracket to earn fifth place. After a quarterfinal loss, Malcom pinned Cameron Werner (Johnson County Central) and earned a win by decision over Roland Spilinek (Lincoln Lutheran). He closed the tournament with a pin over Wyatt Dike (Beatrice) in the fifth-place

match. Jaden Rodriguez (285) also reached the finals with a pair of decision wins. Rodriguez defeated Chase Simpson (Fall City), 7-1, in the quarterfinals and Gavyn Rhoden (Beatrice), 4-0, in the semifinals. He placed second following a loss to Hunter Holle (Syracuse) in the championship match.

Senior Drake Hasbrouck brought home gold from the Raymond Central Invite on Saturday, Jan. 31. Hasbrouck moved his season record to 30-7. (LOCAL Photo by Barry Mraz)



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The Story That Plays on Repeat

What's the story that plays on repeat in your mind, the one you've carried with you for years?

We gifted my mom Storyworth a few years ago. Each week, she received a question, and at the end of the year, her responses were to be printed into a book for her children and grandchildren. My mother, however, turned the project into a full-blown book project. She didn't just answer the questions, she wrote a 400-page book about her life's journey.

She passed away a little over six months ago. This morning, in the quiet early hours, my eyes fell on her book resting on my book shelf. I picked it up and began reading her story as she experienced it. What struck me most were the significant questions that surfaced from hurtful experiences at a very young age: Why wasn't I wanted? Why didn't my family love me? Why wasn't I important enough to be remembered?

These questions appeared in her story prior to the age of ten, yet they echoed throughout her life. They were the same questions I remember her voicing even in her later years.

And I have done this too.

Recently, I was reminded of a long-held, icky belief that I have been trying to discard for the better part of a decade. I can trace it back to childhood, yet it has reverberated throughout my life: I am too hard to love. I am high maintenance and expect too much.



I am not worthy of the extra work it takes to show intentional love.

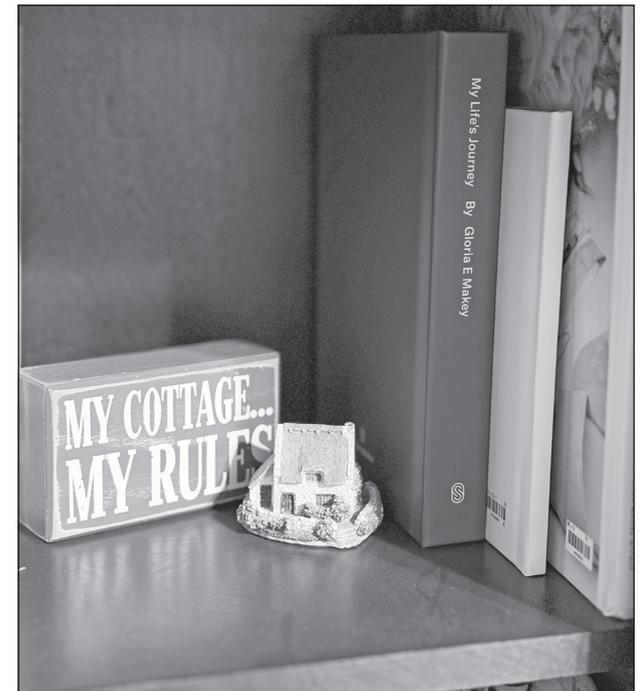
I know this belief is not true. I also know it isn't easily erased. When life presents the opportunity, this old story still plays on repeat in my mind.

I remember my dad sharing a similar message from his youth, one that he carried with him to Vietnam and back. Even in his later years, the question still lingered. And I see this pattern repeated in people I know and love: an old belief, set on a continuous loop, quietly shaping how they see themselves and the world.

I have spent years trying to re-write that loop in my own life. While the message no longer blares as loudly or as often, I am still caught off guard when it resurfaces. For a moment, it knocks me off balance. I wobble. Then, I steady myself again and remind myself of what is true: I am loved. I am worthy of love. I am worth the effort it takes to show me love.

I don't know if my mom ever found a way to press stop on the stories that played on repeat in her mind. I hope she did. I hope she knew that she was wanted, loved by her family, and remembered.

More than anything, I want to live in my own truth as a gift to those I love. I want to model that it is okay to press stop, to challenge the stories we learned too young, and to rewrite the beliefs that no longer serve us. We get to choose which story plays on repeat, and we get to choose one rooted in love.



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CHS OID Team Captures Gold at CNFL #2

The Cozad High School speech team traveled to Grand Island on Saturday, Jan. 31, to compete in the CNFL (Central Nebraska Forensics League) #2 Meet. Team members continued to gain confidence at each meet, bringing home 18 medals from the competition.

One of the highlights of the day was the gold medal finish by the Oral Interpretation of Drama (OID) team of Aiden Allbright, Rebecca Burns, Reagan Chrisinger, Adeline Joyce, and Haydn Revelo.

The OID team of Taegan Dexter, Eh Thaw Hser, Ava Joyce, and Talyn Propp earned fifth-place medals.

Talyn Propp placed seventh in Varsity Entertainment, Katelynn Williamson received 12th place in Program of Oral Interpretation, Eh Thaw Hser earned 14th place in Serious Prose, and Raiden Heuck placed 15th to round out the varsity competition results.

In novice competition, Jayden Wills earned third place in Entertainment.

Both novice Duet Acting teams continued to score well, with Rebecca Burns and Adeline Joyce capturing second place and Reagan Chrisinger and Haydn Revelo placing fourth.

The Haymaker Speech Team, led by Head Coach Woody Blackmore and assistant coaches Yanira Rodriguez and Omar Carlos, will compete at the Gothenburg Speech Meet on Saturday, Feb. 7.



The CHS Speech Team competed at the CNFL #2 Speech Meet in Grand Island on Saturday, Jan. 31. Team members who competed at the meet were from back left, Aiden Allbright, Reagan Chrisinger, Katelynn Williamson, Talyn Propp, Taegan Dexter, and Crystal Hernandez. Front row, Rebecca Burns, Adeline Joyce, Ava Joyce, Eh Thaw Hser, and Klaylee Revelo. Not pictured: Raiden Heuck, Haydn Revelo, and Jayden Wills. (Photo Courtesy of Yanira Rodriguez)



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Last updated on January 27, 2026



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

No Arrests Reported

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

No Arrests Reported

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

Pascual-Pedro, Miguel Angel – 27

Driving under revocation; Driving under influence liquor (4th); Refusal to submit breath/chem test; Refusal of a pretest

Reiners, Carsen J. – 22

Gosper County driving under influence liquor (2nd) – .15 or Greater

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

Wilson, Timothy Stewart – 41

Arrest and detain

Bennett, Patricia – 60

Shoplifting \$501-\$1,499

Schilling, Justin Patrick – 36

Driving under the influence – .15 or Refusal (3 prior convictions)

Reed, Julius Marcel – 35

Possession of controlled substance (Mushrooms); Possession of paraphernalia; Fictitious plates; Possession of marijuana; Failure to appear – No Operator's License (Non-Waivable)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

Marsh, Steven Eugene – 64

Criminal trespass

Hodtwalker, Scottie A. – 57

Possess deadly weapon; Shoplifting over \$500; Driving during revocation; Buffalo County Warrant

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

Marsh, Steven Eugene – 64

Criminal trespass

Shavlik, Mason Michael – 31

Dawson County Warrant (Probation violation; Resisting arrest)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

Newbrey, Javin Jay – 30

Disturbing the peace, Unlawful acts

Cozad Grand Generation Center

Weekly MENU

- Thur., 2/5** Smothered Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Peach Salad, Ice Cream
- Fri., 2/6** French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Hot Fruit, Veggie Sticks, Bread Pudding
- Mon., 2/9** Salisbury Steak, Roasted Potatoes, Carrots, Pears, Fruit Crisp
- Tues., 2/10** Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Hominy, Apple Snicker Salad, Ice Cream
- Wed., 2/11** Baked Fish, Potato Wedges, Peas, Coleslaw, Ice Cream

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Lexington Grand Generation Center

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- Thur., 2/5** Chicken Patty on a Bun or Fish, Tater Tots, 3 Bean Casserole, Pears
- Fri., 2/6** Taco Bar, Meat Sauce, Tri Tater, Beans, Apricots, Tortillas, Dessert
- Mon., 2/9** Polish Dog on a Bun, Fries, Sauerkraut, Tropical Fruit
- Tues., 2/10** Cook's Choice Casserole, Diced Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Apple Slices
- Wed., 2/11** Chuck Wagon Steak w/ Gravy, Boiled Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Peaches

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- Dr. Gorantla: Feb 12, 26
- Dr. Kummer: Feb 2, 11, 23

CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

- Dr. de Brito McGee: Feb 11

EAR, NOSE, & THROAT

- Dr. Klinginsmith: Feb 10, 24

GENERAL SURGERY

- Dr. Buser: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
- Dr. Luebbe: Feb 13, 27
- Dr. Seip: Feb 6, 20

GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS

- Dr. Adam: Feb 5, 19, 26

NEPHROLOGY

- Dr. Islam: Feb 17

ORTHOPEDIC SPINE

- Dr. Ray: Feb 2, 3, 16, 17

ORTHOPEDICS

- Dr. Schopp: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24

PAIN MANAGEMENT

- Dr. Williams: Feb 4

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

- Dr. Bussard: Feb 23

PODIATRY

- Dr. Wray: Feb 5, 19

PULMONOLOGY

- Dr. Ganatra: Feb 3

UROLOGY

- Dr. Rutman: Feb 2, 3, 16

VASCULAR SURGERY

- Dr. Davis: Feb 23



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Legals

Notice

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

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

Bazata Insurance Agency, Inc.
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Feb. 5, 2026
Feb. 12, 2026
Feb. 19, 2026
(19) znez

Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF 3 BANDANAS BAKERY, LLC

Notice is hereby given of the organization of 3 Bandanas Bakery, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company. 1. The name of the company is 3 Bandanas Bakery, LLC. 2. The street and mailing address of the initial designated office of the company is 720 10th Street, Gothenburg, Nebraska 69138. 3. The initial agent for service of process of the company and its street and mailing address is Antonia M. Mendez, 720 10th Street, Gothenburg, Nebraska 69138. Dated: January 22, 2026.

By: Antonia M. Mendez,
Organizer
By: Noe N. Mendez,
Organizer

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

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

Notice

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF AEOTA M. NIELSEN, DECEASED ESTATE NO. PR26-5

Notice is hereby given that on January 20, 2026, in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Frank L. Koehn, 2 Dry Bay Drive 15, Johnson Lake, NE 68937, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 30, 2026, or be forever barred.

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Jan. 29, 2026
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Notice

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

Take notice a Petition for Appointment of a Guardian of a Minor has been filed in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, the purpose of which is to appoint Aracely Miguel Andres as Guardian of the above mentioned minor child. A hearing on the Petition for Appointment of a Guardian of a Minor has been set for the 18th day of February, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Dawson County Court, Lexington, Nebraska. Dated this 9th day of January, 2026.

Aracely Miguel Andres,
Petitioner
BY: Claire K. Bazata, #25461

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

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

Notice

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF DONNA D. HILD, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26-6

Notice is hereby given that on January 22nd, 2026, in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Leslie A. Dickerson of 7626 NW Folkstone Way, Lawton, Oklahoma 73505 was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Repre-

sentative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 30, 2026 or be forever barred.

Myndee M Hagan
Clerk of the County Court
700 N Washington
Lexington, NE 68850
Wilson J. Hupp,
Bar I.D. #27338
Hart, Huyser & Miller,
P.C., L.L.O.
121 E 8th St
PO Box 229
Cozad, NE 69130
Tel: (308) 784-4580
Fax: (308) 784-4581
Email: whupp@hhattorneys-atlaw.com

Jan. 29, 2026
Feb. 5, 2026
Feb. 12, 2026
(39) znez

Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING

Wilson Public Library Board Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Wilson Public Library Board of the City of Cozad, Nebraska, will be held at 12 p.m., on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at the Wilson

Public Library, which meeting will be open to the public. The Wilson Public Library Board reserves the right to adjourn into executive session as per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. An agenda for such meeting kept continually current is available for public inspection at the Wilson Public Library during normal business hours.

Laurie Yocom
Wilson Public Library Director
Feb. 5, 2026
(22) znez

Notice

COZAD AIRPORT AUTHORITY NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is given that a meeting of the Cozad Airport Authority will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the Cozad Airport, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting kept continually current is available for public inspection at the Cozad Airport Administration Building. Feb. 5, 2026
(13) znez

Changes in Insurance Should Not Stop PREVENTIVE Care

If you are a woman losing or dropping insurance coverage, Every Woman Matters (EWM) may help with well-woman visits.

For eligible clients, EWM offers:
* Breast and cervical cancer screenings for women 21-64
* Colon cancer testing for women and men 45-74

Early prevention saves lives!
Scan the code to enroll or call to see if you qualify!



ENROLL today!

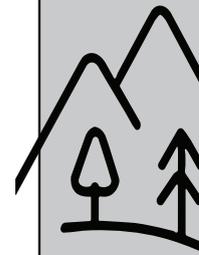
bit.ly/EWM-NCP-HLQ



800-532-2227

Online & In-person workshop for military veterans Ag Tourism: A Guide to Farm Stays and Outdoor Experiences

Free | March through August



Register at
cfra.org/AgVets2026

info@cfra.org | 402.687.2100 | cfra.org



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Have a Story Idea?

Contact Liz@cozadlocal.com

Classifieds

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STAFF ENGINEER – SPEARFISH, SD. Responsible for CAD activities, engineering support (office/field), administering the city's floodplain ordinance. Starting range. PE \$96,512.00, FE \$87,422.40 www.cityofspearfish.com

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ATTENTION ADVERTISERS! For \$225/25 word classified you can advertise in over 150 Nebraska newspapers. For more information contact your local newspaper or call 1-800-369-2850.

MARCH 2ND - MARCH 6TH, 2026

**** STOP BY THE CITY OFFICE BEFORE FEB 27 TO PICK UP YOUR TAGS****

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP

What we will take:

Appliances such as:

Washer, Dryer, Dishwasher, Stove, Freezer, Air Conditioner, Tires, Computer Monitors, Furniture that is too big for the tan dumpster.

If the item is small enough to put in the tan dumpster please deposit item in dumpster.

NO TAGS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AFTER 4:00 PM FEBRUARY 27th

**MARCH 2ND -
MARCH 6TH, 2026**

**City of Cozad Office
215 W 8th Street
Cozad, NE 69130
Phone: 308-784-3907**



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Home | Auto | Business | Crop | Farm/Ranch
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Caid Doetker
Insurance Agent

308.784.4460
202 W 8th Street | Cozad, NE



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Game Page

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
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31	32	33			34				35			36	37	
38				39				40			41			
42			43			44				45				
					46					48				
49	50								51			52	53	54
55					56		57	58	59		60			
61					62					63				
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

Weekly Crossword Sponsored by:



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

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish | 30. Rider of Rohan |
| 51. Treeless plains | 31. Wet dirt |
| 55. One's sense of self-importance | 32. Southwestern Russia city |
| 56. Consumer advocate | 33. Observed |
| 60. Type of lounge | 36. Angry |
| 61. Body part | 37. Drivers' licenses |
| 62. Can be persuaded | 39. Musical composition |
| 64. Woman (French) | 40. Auction |
| 65. Ready and willing to be taught | 43. They ___ |
| 66. Arab ruler title | 45. Women |
| 67. Unhappy | 47. Be filled with love for |
| 68. Gradually went away | 48. Thick-soled sock |
| 69. Able to think clearly | 49. Appears |

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Small water spirit (Germ.)
- Heroes
- Monetary units
- Some don't want to share theirs
- Free-swimming invertebrate
- Litigates
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uneasy feelings
- Cross
- A way to remove
- Pages can be dog-___
- Ukrainian city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Month
- Hindu queens
- Group of chemicals

CLUES ACROSS

- Cut quickly
- A way to state clearly
- River in NE Scotland
- Expansive
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Experimented with
- One-sided
- Acquisitive
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Kalahari Desert lake
- Unidentified flying object
- People 65 and over
- Small amount
- Daughter of Acrisius
- Ornamental box
- Government agents
- Uncertain

Who established Berryman Funeral Home in 1947?

SOLUTIONS 01-29-2026

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

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

100 E 8th St. Cozad, NE

Feb 6th – Feb 12th

Solo Mio, PG
Buffalo Kids, PG
Iron Lung, R
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Matinees on Saturday & Sunday
See website for dates and times

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1-29-26 Answer:

Q: Who was the first librarian at WPL? A: Miss Edith Allen



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