



Cozad High School Celebrates “Rock the Night Away” Homecoming

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Cozad High School celebrated Homecoming Sept. 22–27 with activities organized by the Spirit Club under the direction of Dawn Beans. The Student Council oversaw the coronation of Homecoming Royalty.

The Homecoming pep rally took place Friday, Sept. 26, in the CHS gym. Emcee Marcie Kostrunek welcomed high school and middle school students, CEEC and elementary classes, staff, and community members. The pep band, directed by DeVere Larington, performed as attendees filled the gym.

Homecoming candidates were introduced with walk-up songs:

- Olliver Davis, son of Aimee and Brian Davis, and Abbie Albrecht, daughter of Jill and Edd Albrecht (“Big Green Tractor”).

- Koang Deng, son of Kristi and Dan Follmer, and Clatyn Fleharty, daughter of Dranoel and Bill Fleharty (“Homecoming”).

- Braiton Snider, son of Bri and Clint Snider, and Rebeca Htoo, daughter of Bahblu Htoo (“Dancing in the Dark”).

- Bryson Snider, son of Bri and Clint Snider, and Abby Negley, daughter of Jeni and Tim Negley (“Eye of the Tiger”).

- Gage Strauss, son of Stacy and Dan Strauss, and Lucha Olvera, daughter of Muffy Johnson and Mario Olvera (“Diamonds”).

The COED Jazz group performed their annual dance, followed by the 2025 Community Wide Cheer led by Kostrunek, the dance team, and the cheer squad. The cheerleaders also presented a routine led by Jayden Wills that included the game “head, shoulders, knees, and toes.”

Guest speaker Kip Stephens, retired art teacher and longtime Arapahoe basketball coach, spoke on four traits he said define the Haymakers—fans, athlete dedication, leadership from coaches and seniors, and execution. Using a pitchfork with tennis balls to illustrate his points, Stephens credited the spirit of Coach Bill Ramsay and encouraged everyone to “Fear the Fork.”

Spirit Club members Morgan Mraz and Mathew Arndt



Crowned as the 2025 Homecoming Queen and King at Cozad High School were Clatyn Fleharty, the daughter of Dranoel and Bill Fleharty, and Koang Deng, the son of Kristi and Dan Follmer. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

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Weather Forecast

Oct. 2: 85/60



Oct. 3: 86/61



Oct. 4: 79/52



Oct. 5: 75/52



Oct. 6: 73/51



Oct. 7: 66/46



Oct. 8: 63/46



Homecoming Weekend Saved My Sanity (Ok, Maybe Not All of It)

I have been so wrapped up in my kiddo's recovery that I barely realized he's technically a freshman. Yep, a full-fledged, brand-new-to-high-school, barely-attended-four-days kind of freshman. Four days, people. Four! (Trust me, the going-back-to-school countdown has officially begun. We are on Day Minus Infinity.)

I knew it was Homecoming weekend. I knew there was a dance. I've done this twice before, and yet I still managed to forget the critical parental details, like "maybe your kid wants to be a part of the fun".

Saturday rolled around, and my kiddo's friends and their mommas, bless them, made sure he was included for photos. He stood there like a statue, with that far-off look in his eyes. And I hovered. Because of course I did. One second, I'm thinking he might topple over, the next second, I realize he's just processing life like a tiny, recovering philosopher. And then it happened. He laughed. Oh, his laugh. I hadn't heard that laugh in forever. The kind of laugh that makes your stomach hurt from smiling too hard. And that smile, genuine, huge, ridiculous, just-plain-happy smile. He needed that. I needed that. We all needed that reminder that life isn't just a checklist of doctor appointments, homework assignments, work, and sanity-saving cups of coffee.

Then, friends, hold onto your hats, because I did something truly radical. I went out. Not to run errands, not to pay bills, not to chase a turkey down the street, out out. With people. And I had a good time. A legitimately good time. Me. Who goes days without leaving the house, who purposefully loses my phone to avoid conversation, who answers texts in my mind instead of actually responding, and doesn't care for



Liz Romero

crowds. I went to supper with more than two people and enjoyed it. Insane, right?

Yeah, it was just supper, but it was normal. And watching my husband and my kid laugh, talk, and genuinely enjoy a few hours without the weight of the world? That was the cherry on top. Figuratively speaking. Literally, there were no cherries, because my kid's diet doesn't allow cake, and now I miss cake more than ever. But still. The metaphorical icing was excellent. Don't mind me pulling out our own ketchup from home because it has four fewer carbs than what's provided. Did I mention I miss cake?

It made me realize something important: living in the moment doesn't mean you have to shut the world out. You can be present, enjoy life, and still politely ignore 87 phone calls from people you love. You can rock your oversized comfy pants, your hair clipped in the exact same place, no makeup, and still reclaim a little joy. It doesn't have to be fancy. It just has to be you.

Now, don't get me wrong, I love my homebody life. I love my comfy clothes. But I'm ready. Ready to get back to the office. Ready to make going out with friends (all five of them) a priority, and yes, still in my comfy clothes. Because priorities change.

This week is about reclaiming perspective, balance,

and fun amid the chaos of life and parenting. It's about finding the right balance, about remembering that life isn't just about obligations and appointments. Sometimes it's about the little things, the laugh, the smile, even if it's just for a few hours. Sometimes it's about remembering that you can take care of yourself, your family, and still leave the house without a panic attack. And sometimes, just sometimes, it's about secretly dreaming of cake while your kid eats something that tastes like cardboard.

Next week might be about how I miss going to the pumpkin patch with my sister and my baby momma, also known as my bonus daughter's mom. I like baby momma better; it draws the looks from the passer-by-ers. I don't know, stick around, and we will find out together. Just stick around. I want you here.

A grateful friend,
Liz

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Cozad City Council Approves B.I.D. Rate Increase

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Business Improvement District (BID) President Mandy Swanson appeared at the City Council meeting on Sept. 22, to request an increase in the monthly fee paid by each of the 58 businesses in the district. Swanson has been a BID member for almost 13 years and has served as its president since 2019.

Swanson shared the history of BID, which is under the auspices of the city. BID was established in 1984 with the four full blocks stemming from 8th and Meridian, as well as two blocks on 7th Street. The Green Space was added in 2022. Board members must be property owners, residents, business operators, or employees of space within the district.

Projects and expenses include the 48 sidewalk planters and four corner planters, Christmas trees, plants, mulch, labor, trees, hoses, potting soil, and spigots. Melanie Nutt is the primary BID employee, and a used side-by-side was purchased in 2023 to make watering easier from the hose cart with 150+ feet of hose. Trash cans, benches, and planters from SiteScapes, with an approximate cost of \$1,000 each, have been purchased over the years by BID.

"The roofline lighting in 2016–2018 came with a price tag of \$27,000 and requires biannual maintenance," Swanson stated. BID has also purchased flags for the poles over the years, including the 150th Celebration flags in 2022, at a cost of \$2,200.

"The dues have been \$10/month since April 2014, with the annual income just under \$7,000. We have raised the pay/hour from \$9 in 2014, incrementally to \$15/hour on 9/1/24. In 2023, there were 140 hours of labor, and in 2024 (hailstorm year) there were 205 hours turned in. Approximately \$4,500–\$5,000 was spent on annuals, perennials, and mulch each year from 2022 to 2024. We decided that we needed to make a budget and cut back this year, asking Melanie to just plant and mulch, and to let the businesses water their own planters while she watered the corner planters and maintained the others. This did not go well, as most businesses didn't water, that is why we are proposing an increase of \$5/month, which will bring in an additional \$3,500/year. We will still have a budget and promote the purchase of perennials, but will have her water throughout the growing season," Swanson explained.

In addition to the planters, BID is working with Brad Niles to replace the brickwork around some of the planters, especially in front of the FOX Theater. Other projects they would like to pursue include plexiglass downtown holders for tourism brochures, updated Christmas lights, directional signs, downtown speakers, security cameras, and an awning for the Green Space.



Mandy Swanson, president of the Cozad Business Improvement District (BID), appeared at the Sept. 22 Cozad City Council meeting to request an increase in the current monthly fees for the 58 BID businesses from \$10 to \$15. Her request was approved. Swanson also shared what all BID does for the downtown as well as some projects they would like to pursue. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

Council members approved Swanson's request, and the new rate will increase to \$15 a month, effective Jan. 1. Mayor Marcus Kloepping told Swanson that if there are ever any projects, including additional benches that memorial money could be used for, to let him know.

Also, in attendance at the meeting and presenting to the Council were Nebraska Public Power District employees Chad Podolak and Rob Hinrichs. Podolak is the NPPD Director of Wholesale Sales and Services from Columbus, and Hinrichs is the new director of District 6, which includes Dawson County, from Axtell. Cozad has worked successfully with NPPD for years.

There are 23 public power districts and/or cooperatives served by NPPD at wholesale, including Cozad and 34 other municipalities. NPPD is taking the necessary steps to add more generation to keep its electric system reliable and resilient while also balancing the need to keep rates affordable amid the unprecedented load growth coming primarily to rural areas served by its wholesale customers.

The duo noted that Nebraskans pay some of the lowest energy costs in the nation and that putting customers first is the hallmark of public power in Nebraska. "I really enjoy the small-town community atmosphere in Cozad," Hinrichs said.

Mayor Kloepping thanked Podolak and Hinrichs for taking the time to attend the meeting. He also asked

them their long-term goals. "It all starts with a power demand to bring in new businesses," Kloepping noted.

The Board of Public Works had given council members the 2026 Wholesale Power Contract with NPPD and recommended its approval. It was decided that the proposal would be tabled until City Attorney Jennifer Rowling could look it over, and it will be on the agenda for the Oct. 6 meeting.

Council members approved a two percent cost of living increase with an additional two percent discretionary increase at the direction of the direct supervisor for the upcoming fiscal year.

Electric Commissioner Chris White reported that his crew had spent the last two weeks fixing the 50 hotspots detected by Fast Forward. "We are able to fix about 10–15 per week," White stated. "We are also changing out poles, working on grants, and completing our budget."

Public Services Commissioner Jimmy Weinmaster reported that his department has been hauling branches, has completed fall spraying at the parks, and is building the brackets for the four-way stop at the main intersection downtown. "We have encountered more problems at the Cozad cemetery as a pressure tank blew up, and we spent all day Saturday repairing it," Weinmaster said.

Water/Sewer Commissioner Troy Franzen reported that they continue to work on meters at a rate of 10–15 per week and that the big ones have been completed. "Last week we worked on lining the sewer from north of A Street underneath the highway and the railroad, as it had several leaks at the rate of 10–12 gallons/minute. We have saved the city up to \$25,000 by completing this lining process," Franzen stated. "We are done with linings for this year and still need to re-do some manholes."

Police Chief Nick Reynolds reported that he had completed the budget for his department. "I took the F & S pistol training through the Dawson County Sheriff's Office this past weekend, and all officers and I have now completed our CE hours for the year," Reynolds shared.

City Clerk Brandi Kloepping reported that she continues to work on the budget. "Intern Tell Jensen has been here for five days and has already been out with Police Chief Reynolds and Building Inspector Doug Adkisson," Kloepping said. Jensen had been approved for an internship under Clerk Kloepping to learn more about City functions during his final semester of school. He plans to seek work as a City Administrator in his future.

The Council has had a busy September with a regular meeting and four retreat meetings. The next Cozad City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the City Office Building.

Obituaries

Dale Lee Pfeiffer, who courageously battled a long illness until his passing on Sept. 21, 2025, at the age of 80. Throughout his journey, Dale showed remarkable strength and quiet determination, leaving a lasting example of resilience to those who knew him.

Dale was born on Oct. 10, 1944, in Lexington, to Cornelius and Ida (née Schutz) Pfeiffer. As the eighth of ten children, Dale grew up in a close-knit family, where he spent much of his childhood and early adulthood working on the family farm in Elwood. On Dec. 10, 1944, he was baptized at Salem Lutheran Church in Elwood, a day that marked the beginning of his lifelong connection to faith.

On June 19, 1971, Dale married the love of his life,

Patricia, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Lexington, beginning a beautiful journey together that would span 54 years. Their union was blessed with three children, Brent, Alyssa, and Eric. The family lived in Lexington for a number of years before relocating to Colorado Springs, CO, in 1985, where they planted new roots and continued to build their life together.

Dale was a man of great simplicity, grounded by a tireless work ethic that defined his life. For 32 years, he worked as a skilled welder, meticulously crafting parts for Siemens, a job he took immense pride in. When not working, Dale lived a

life rooted in faith and family.

His love for God was unwavering, and he placed his family at the center of his world. He cherished each

moment spent with his children, grandchildren, and loved ones, offering not only his wisdom but also his infectious humor.

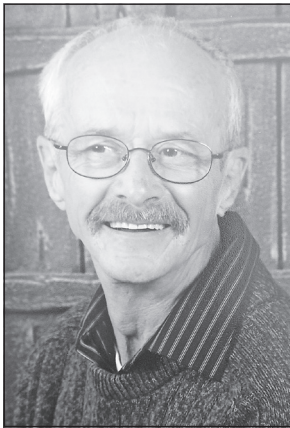
His playful spirit and warm heart made him a beloved figure to his grandchildren, who were captivated by his sense of humor and gentle guidance.

Above all, Dale had a soft spot for all family pets, often found sharing quiet moments with them, offering affection and companionship. He believed in the simple joys of life, whether it was reading the newspaper at home or spending time outdoors on the porch, enjoying one cup of coffee after another (after another).

Dale was preceded in death by his parents; his parents-in-law, Jerry and Alyce Miller; his sisters, Dolores Oelkers, Elaine Farr, Ardella Brand, and twin newborn sisters; his brothers, Lyle Pfeiffer and Alvin Pfeiffer; his sisters-in-law, Lois Pfeiffer, Bonnie Pfeiffer, Isabelle Pfeiffer, Erma Pfeiffer, and Eileen Wilson; his brothers-in-law, Floyd Farr, Art Oelkers, Duane Brand, Robert Schneider, and Larry Wilson; his nieces, Cristy Niemeier and Shelly Farr; and his nephew, Dwight Pfeiffer.

Dale is survived by his loving wife, Patrica Ann; two sons, Brent Pfeiffer (Jennifer) and Eric Pfeiffer of Colorado Springs; and daughter, Alyssa Pratkanis (Harris) of Houston, TX. He is also survived by his brother, Lloyd Pfeiffer of Arapahoe; his sister, Dortha (LaMoyne) Niemeier of Elwood; his sister-in-law, Jerry Kay Kyle (Carl) of Lexington; and his brother-in-law, Richard Miller of Greeley. Dale's memory will live on through his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and loved ones: Zachariah, Misty, Chya, Amber, Cirilla, Aurora, Owen, Eden, Jeremiah, Cody, Gage, and Leo. He leaves numerous nieces and nephews who will miss him tremendously.

Memorials are suggested to the family for later designation. Online condolences may be shared at berrymanfuneralhome.com. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 1:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Elwood with Pastor Aaron Witt officiating. A burial followed at Salem West Cemetery. Berryman Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.



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Obituaries

Morris L. Sinor passed away at his Southlake home on Sept. 18, 2025, holding his wife’s hand at the age of 85. Throughout his life, he always insisted he was the luckiest man alive. May we all live our lives believing the same to be true.

Morris Sinor was born on June 24, 1940, to Floyd and Arlene Sinor on their farm in Hershey, in the early years of WWII. He was the third of five children who took his middle child responsibilities to heart. A bridge in both life and work, Morris sought connection, meaningful relationships, and a belief in negotiation. His early years were spent on farms in Central Nebraska, first in Hershey and then in Cozad, where he would eventually graduate from Cozad High School. At the age of ten, his father told him he was a man and was expected to do a man’s work. He drove the tractor, baled hay, inoculated pigs, milked cows, and hauled water, dirt, grain, and rock. Alongside his older brothers, Jerry Sinor and Bill Sinor, then later his younger brother Keith Sinor and sister Donna Kay Sinor, he did what had to be done at a time when money was short, leisure rare, and options limited.

Ask him, though, and he would tell you that his childhood was marked by adventure, imagination, and opportunity.

His early years in Nebraska, where skies stretch forever and time is marked by what’s growing in the fields, fueled a lifelong love of the natural world. He enjoyed nothing more than sitting outside and watching the sky, or the birds, or the trees, or the clouds. Land, and the love of land, lived in his bones.

Morris followed his brother Jerry to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he studied business and then attended law school. A high school teacher



once told him that he wouldn’t amount to anything; Morris’s entire life was a challenge to that assertion. It was at Nebraska that he met the woman who would become, in no uncertain terms, the love of his life, Cynthia (Peterson) Sinor. They were married in 1961 and were each other’s best friends for the next 64 years. It is impossible to capture their love in language. What do you call two people who complete each other so perfectly that even the seams do not show? To paraphrase the poet Hafiz, “A love like that lights up the whole sky”.

Morris joined the military during Vietnam. He served in the U.S. Navy for 26 years, eventually reaching the rank of Captain. Morris was one of the very first officers in the newly formed Navy Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps, and his career took him around the world. He became an international ocean law specialist and wrote treaties that defined the rules of engagement at sea. His work is still consulted today. Morris loved country, God, and family at a time when that wasn’t a bumper sticker but was lived, every day, through action. He believed in respect, the chain of command, and always doing your very best. He stepped up every time. He acted. He led. His mind was powerful, incisive, and original. You might not agree with him, but you always respected him.


Morris and Cynde had three children: Jennifer Sinor, Scott Sinor, and Bryan Sinor. They never doubted his love. He showed up for them time and again. He taught them how to be strong, brave, and true. Three years ago, his youngest son, Bryan, died at the age of 46. It was a loss that devastated Morris physically, emotionally, and mentally. In many ways, he died of heartache rather than age, cancer, or dementia. No

parent should have to bury their child.

If asked, Morris might say that his favorite time in life was the years the family was stationed in Hawaii for the second time, days at the beach, riding waves, hiking through rainforests, and playing games. But then again, he might choose the early years of his marriage when they ate so much tuna casserole to save money that his wife refused to ever make it again. Or maybe he would claim his childhood years, feet dangling from the hayloft, his brothers sitting next to him, talking of the fish they would catch the following day. Or maybe, later years, backpacking with the extended family in the Rockies, sitting around campfires, trying to avoid the smoke. And perhaps that’s why he always said he was the luckiest man alive, because he found joy in all the stages of his life. If you asked Morris how he was doing, he often responded “super wonderful,” even when you knew that wasn’t the case. Morris made his life in a way that feels almost unknown these days. He took what was hard, and he turned that difficulty into a story. His stories had a hero, always, but it was never him. He is, though, the hero of his own life. What he made, what he built, what he forged, fixed, found, his family, his friends, and his generosity of heart stand as a testament to a truly great man. And we, his family, his children, those who remain, we are the luckiest ones because we were loved by a man larger than the sky.

Morris is survived by his wife, Cynthia Sinor, his son, Scott Sinor, his daughter, Jennifer Sinor (Michael Sowder), his grandchildren Aidan and Kellen Sowder-Sinor, his sister-in-law Billie Peterson-Lugo (Robert Lugo), his brother Keith Sinor (Joline Sinor), his sister Donna Sinor, and a vast constellation of friends and family touched by his life.’

A memorial for Morris will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Nature Conservancy.



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Bayer Learning Center Looking to Harvest Research

KRYSTLE RHOADES, CORRESPONDENT

With more than 300 acres dedicated to agricultural research, the Bayer Crop Science Water Utilization Learning Center south of Gothenburg is a hub of innovation for farmers across Nebraska and beyond. The center's team, led by Manager Mark Reiman, works in small plots to test new products and practices, collecting data that can help growers improve profitability, efficiency, and sustainability.

On the product side, researchers are evaluating potential corn and soybean varieties, with a close eye on challenges like greensnap, crown rot, and other diseases. One of the most anticipated technologies is the Preceon Smart Corn System, a short-statured corn variety that grows to about seven feet tall with ears positioned around 24 inches. The design helps reduce issues with wind and lodging while also making late-season applications more accessible.

"This was developed to help growers with some of the challenges corn sometimes presents," Reiman said. The plant has a great root system underneath it and can be planted at higher densities because of its stalk strength. Currently, the product is available on a limited basis through Channel and Dekalb.

On the agronomic side, the Learning Center is digging deep into questions about planting dates, weed control,

crop rotations, and cover crops.

This year's planting date trials stretched from mid-March through mid-June. Results from past trials show that soybeans, especially treated seed, can handle earlier planting dates even in cool, wet conditions. Corn, meanwhile, performed best when planted around the first of May. A video of March soybean planting at the center drew more than a million views on social media, reflecting the widespread interest.

Cover crops are another area of focus. At the request of local growers, Bayer tested different termination dates, ranging from two weeks before planting to four weeks after. Initial results suggest that earlier termination improves emergence, though full harvest data is still to come. The center is also in its fifth year of a national, multi-university study looking at the long-term impacts of cover crops.

Crop rotation studies include continuous corn, corn-soybean, and three-crop rotations with wheat. While continuous corn may not always produce the highest yields, Reiman noted that in central Nebraska, it often proves the most profitable thanks to strong corn markets.

One of the most interactive projects underway this year is the TAPS (Testing Ag Performance Solutions) competition, a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Frito-Lay. Ten teams, along with control plots, are making real-time management decisions. These include everything from hybrid and seeding rate to nitrogen timing, irrigation, and even insurance and marketing strategies. A grain quality component, with premiums for white or food-grade corn, adds an extra layer of interest.

Other collaborative projects include irrigation studies using a rainout shelter, where timing of water application is tested. Results are helping farmers become more confident in knowing when stress can be tolerated without hurting yields.

As Bayer looks to the future, the pipeline of products and practices continues to expand. Researchers are testing herbicides targeted at Nebraska's toughest weeds like Palmer amaranth in the west and waterhemp in the east, as well as new soybean genetics like Vyconic soybeans. Partnerships with UNL and Kansas State University are advancing knowledge in cover crops, fertilization rates,



The rainout shelter at the Bayer Learning Center is a building on rails that automatically closes over crops when it senses rainfall. This ensures that plots receive only scheduled irrigation. This year's research under the shelter focuses on soybeans. (LOCAL Photo by Krystle Rhoades)

and water management.

Reiman emphasized that the ultimate goal is to give farmers the tools they need to succeed the first time they try a new product or practice. "We want farmers to have a good experience right away," he said. "If something doesn't work, it can take a long time before they're willing to try it again."

Beyond research, the Learning Center also welcomes a large number of visitors each year for tours, ranging from local farmers to international guests. During these tours, staff showcase unique plots designed to spark conversation, such as demonstrations of how much land it once took to produce a bushel of corn or soybeans compared to today, root digs of the short-statured Preceon hybrids, and side-by-side comparisons of cover crops and termination dates. These interactive stops not only highlight the science behind the studies but also make the research accessible and engaging for anyone who steps onto the plots.

From short-statured corn hybrids to cover crop longevity, the research being done south of Gothenburg is paving the way for the next generation of profitable and sustainable farming. With harvest season approaching, the Bayer Learning Center is looking to harvest research in Gothenburg, turning trial data into insights that can help farmers across the region.

Market Report

For the Week Ending Sep. 26, 2025

Nebraska Weekly Grain Prices,
Central Region

US NO 2 YELLOW CORN: \$3.72-\$3.86

US NO 1 SOYBEANS: \$9.14-\$9.32



Livestock Weighted Average Report for Sep. 29, 2025

STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Wt. Range - 760-799; Avg Wt - 777; Price Range -
\$350.00-402.50; Avg Price - \$387.15

HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Wt. Range - 806-848; Avg Wt - 816; Price Range -
\$319.500-355.00; Avg Price - \$340.97



Medical Minute sponsored by  **CozadCommunity**
HEALTH SYSTEM

Alzheimer’s and Dementia: How Hospice Can Help


JULIE SKALA, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL PLAINS HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

Understanding the Journey
Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia are progressive illnesses that affect memory, thinking, and behavior. As these conditions advance, families often find themselves facing difficult questions: When is it time for hospice? What kind of support is available? How can we ensure comfort and dignity for our loved one?

Hospice care is designed to provide compassionate support during this stage of life, focusing on quality of life rather than curative treatment. For individuals living with Alzheimer’s or dementia, hospice offers comfort, dignity, and peace of mind, for both the patient and their family.

When Hospice May Be Appropriate

- ◆ The individual is experiencing advanced stages of dementia (for exam-


Central Plains
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

ple, difficulty with eating, walking, or communicating).

- ◆ There are frequent hospitalizations, infections, or significant weight loss.
- ◆ Families or caregivers are struggling to manage care needs at home.
- ◆ The focus has shifted from cure to comfort.

How Hospice Helps

1. Expert Symptom Management
Hospice teams specialize in managing symptoms common to Alzheimer’s and dementia, including agitation, anxiety,

sleep disturbances, and pain.

2. Personalized Care Plans
Care is tailored to the unique needs of each patient, supporting both medical and daily living needs.

3. Support for Families and Caregivers
Hospice provides training, education, and respite care, helping families feel confident and supported in their caregiving role.

4. Emotional and Spiritual Care
Social workers, chaplains, and volunteers provide emotional and spiritual support for both patients and loved ones.

5. Bereavement Services
After a loved one’s passing, hospice offers grief support and counseling to help families cope and heal.

The Goal of Hospice Care
For those living with Alzheimer’s and dementia, hospice care is about more than medical support. It’s about ensuring that every day is lived with dignity, comfort, and peace, while surrounding families with the resources they need.

At Central Plains Home Health & Hospice, we are here to walk this journey with you, providing compassionate care and unwavering support.



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OCTOBER VISITING SPECIALIST SCHEDULE

CARDIOLOGY Dr. Bassent Botros – Oct. 16 th Dr. Kevin Hall – Oct. 2 nd Dr. Rick Heirigs – Oct. 1 st Dr. Daniel McGowan – Oct. 6 th	ORTHOPEDIC Dr. Scott Lukens – Oct. 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th Dr. Mandip Singh – Oct. 7 th
GYNECOLOGY Dr. Gina Torpin – Oct. 23 rd	PULMONOLOGY Melissa Hoferer, APRN – Oct. 7 th , 21 st
NEPHROLOGY Dr. Imtiaz Islam – Oct. 21 st	GENERAL SURGERY Dr. Jeffery Merz – Oct. 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th Dr. Michael Simonson – Oct. 3 rd , 17 th Dr. Jacob Wiesen – Oct. 10 th , 31 st
ONCOLOGY Dr. Cynthia Lewis – Oct. 22 nd Dr. Laxmi Buddharaju – Oct. 16 th	Urology Dr. Jose Q De Guzman – Oct. 9 th
PODIATRY Dr. Joshua Wray – Oct. 14 th , 28 th	PAIN SPECIALTY Bryan Messbarger, APRN – Oct. 15 th Dr. Burt McKeag (Surgery) – Oct. 10 th





The Happy Players Polka Band were enjoyed by those who attended Oktoberfest at Frontier Frau last weekend. (LOCAL Photo by Mel Nutt)

Oktoberfest Comes to an End at Frontier Frau

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

One of the highlights of this year’s Oktoberfest, celebrated at the Frontier Frau from Sept. 13–27, was the appearance of the Happy Players Polka Band of Fremont on Friday, Sept. 26. They played and sang for a sizable crowd, who also enjoyed fine food, German beer, and Wurst games throughout the evening.

According to their manager, Libby Brettman, the band began when her son, Jameson Brettman, brought home an accordion while in seventh grade in 2016. He showed the instrument to his middle school band director, Steve Steager, who has a Czech background. Steager recruited other players, and the rest is history.

The band focuses primarily on German Oktoberfests and is scheduled to perform at the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Oktoberfest for five days in October and at the New Braunfels, Texas, Oktoberfest in November. Current members include tuba player Luke Eiesenmenger, accordion player Jameson Brettman, drumset player Turner Blick, and trumpeter Stephen Vala.

Giving Children a “Head Start”

COZAD LOCAL

Head Start is an early education program designed to support children (0-5), families, and communities through quality education, comprehensive health and family services, and by fostering community partnerships. Head Start is a federal investment program that has been providing quality Pre-K to income-eligible children for more than 55+ years.

The Head Start program strives to involve families in their children’s learning and make progress toward their educational, literacy, and employment goals. Our program focuses on the unique strengths and needs of each child and family. Our staff provides high-quality early education through research-based curriculums, health and nutrition services. We provide support to families through ongoing parent education, case management, and group socializations.

If you have a child, age 0-4, please contact our staff at Head Start, a program of Community Action Partnership of Mid Nebraska, at the following address or phone number:

Cozad Head Start 420 W 14th St. Cozad, NE 69130 (308)784-3969

For more information see www.communityactionmidne.com for all Mid Head Start and Early Head Start center contact information.

Cozad Grand Generation Center

Weekly Menu: Oct. 2 - Oct. 8

Oct. 2 - Chicken Alfredo, Roasted Potatoes, Carrots, Fruit Cocktail, Ice Cream

Oct. 3 - Taco Burger, Tater Tots, Pork & Beans, Mixed Fruit, Brownies

Oct. 6 - Hamburger Bake, Butternut Squash, Mandarin Oranges, Fruit Crisp

Oct. 7 - Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberries, Dressing, Green Beans, 7-Up Salad, Watermelon, Ice Cream

Oct. 8 - Chili, Egg Salad Sandwich, Veggie Sticks, Red Applesauce, Ice Cream

Lunch served Daily 11:30-12:30 Salad Bar Every Day!

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Lexington Grand Generation Center

Oct. 2 - Oct. 8

Oct. 2- Ham Potato Casserole, Mixed Veggies, Apricots

Oct. 3- Taco Bar, Meat Sauce, Tri Potato, Applesauce, Dessert, Tortilla

Oct. 6- Mushroom Steak in Gravy, Boiled Potatoes, Tomato Medley, Peaches

Oct. 7- Italian Chicken, Baby Bakers, Wax Beans, Applesauce

Oct. 8- Apple Cider Pork Chops, Candied Yams, Cali-Blend Veggies, Mixed Fruit

Daily menus are subject to change.

Lunch prices: 60+ - \$5 Suggested Contribution Under 60 - \$7

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Haymaker Organization Leaderships

COZAD LOCAL

The Cozad LOCAL is proud to recognize this year's organization leaders at Cozad High School. Included this week are SkillsUSA officers, band auxiliary members, and band leadership team members.




ABOVE: Providing leadership for the Haymaker Marching Band for the 2025-2026 are front row, from left, Katelynn Williamson, Color Guard Social Media Manager; Ryly Valkema, Trumpet Section Leader and Music Librarian; Drea Saravia, Drum Line Captain; Crystal Hernandez, Flute Section Leader; Ava Joyce, Marching Captain and Band Social Media Manager; and Joslynn Wills, Clarinet Section Leader and Uniform Manager. Back row, EveLynn Schroder, Music Librarian; Gustavo Benavente, Color Guard Captain; Rieker Spradlin, Saxophone Section Leader; Marley Fochtman, Marching Captain; Brooke Dyer, Marching Captain; and Hayden Revelo, Low Brass Section Leader. **BELOW:** An integral part of the 2025-2026 Haymaker Marching Band are the members of the Color Guard and the Drum Major. From left, Color Guard members Gustavo Benavente and Acelynn Crawford, Drum Major Crystal Hernandez, and Color Guard members Katelynn Williamson, EveLynn Schroeder, and Nelly Tirado. The Haymaker Band competed in the Columbus Marching Festival on Sept. 27, and will travel to Hastings for the annual Harvest of Harmony Parade and Field Competition on Saturday, Oct. 4 and the NSBA State Marching Festival in Kearney on Oct. 25.



Providing exceptional leadership in the Cozad SkillsUSA chapter for the 2025-2026 school year are front row, from left, Social Coordinator Ella Atchison, President Morgan Mraz, and Secretary Betzy Utrera. Back row: Vice President Crystal Hernandez, and Treasurer Braedon Groteluschen. The chapter advisor is Dawn Beans. (LOCAL Photos by Mel Nutt)

Go Haymaker Football!!


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Cozad FCCLA Attends Fall Leadership Conference at UNK

MEL NUTT, CORRESPONDENT

Cozad FCCLA members attended the Fall Leadership Conference at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on Sept. 17. Hosted by the UNK Family Studies Department, the event brought together FCCLA chapters from across the state to focus on leadership, teamwork, and career readiness. The members were accompanied by chapter advisors Jessica DeLaTorre and Yanira Rodriguez.

Students participated in breakout sessions such as Advocacy 101, Level Up Your Leadership, and Fueling Strong Families & Healthy Habits with SPOT.

A highlight of the day was reconnecting with 2023 Cozad FCCLA president Madison Rowley, who joined the chapter for lunch and gave a live soap-making demonstration at Buff City Soaps.

Reflecting on the event, the current Cozad Officer Team shared, “This has been by far the best FLC we’ve attended. It was more organized, and the workshops flowed well from one to the next.”

The conference wrapped up with a closing session and campus tour, leaving Cozad FCCLA members inspired and ready to bring new ideas back to their chapter.



Cozad FCCLA members who attended the Fall Leadership Conference on Sept. 17 included front row, from left: Paw Ler, Eh Hser, Gabriela Vazquez, Rebeca Htoo, Diana Hernandez, Adeline Joyce, and Rebecca Burns. Back row: Jaira Flores, Ryly Valkema, EveLynn Schroeder, Layla Leahy, Crystal Hernandez, Talyn Propp, and Kaydience Martin-Jackson. (Courtesy Photo)



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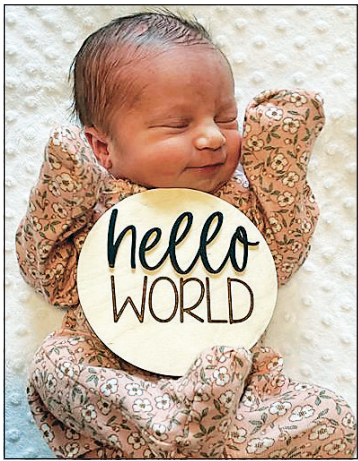
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Birth

Paul and Epley Hamilton of Cozad announce the birth of a daughter on Sept. 18, 2025, at Gothenburg Health. Lyndi Anne Hamilton was born at 1:50 p.m., weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches in length. Lyndi is welcomed home by two brothers, Roy and Wyatt. Grandparents are Jacque and Fred Neal of Hanover, Kansas, Randy and Annie Hamilton of Greensboro, Georgia, and Diane Bullock of Bellevue. Great-grandparents are Lyndi Krongak of Lincoln and Joan Hamilton of Council Bluffs, Iowa.







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Cozad Volunteer Fire Department to Observe **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

LIZ ROMERO

Cozad Volunteer Fire Department will join departments nationwide in marking Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5-11, 2025.

This year's theme, set by the National Fire Protection Association, is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home." The focus is on preventing fires caused by the batteries that power common items such as phones, laptops, e-bikes, and power tools.

The Cozad Volunteer Fire Department will use the week to share safety reminders and engage the community through education and outreach. Daily topics will highlight safe use, charging, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries, along with traditional fire safety practices such as checking smoke alarms and planning escape routes.

Oct. 7 - @ Cozad Child Care

Oct. 8 - @ Cozad Elem.

Oct. 9 - @ Little Disciples Preschool

Oct. 10 - CEEC comes to Fire Hall

Oct. 15 - @ Head Start

Nov. 8 - Junior Fire Patrol @ Fire Hall

Fire Prevention Week has been observed annually since 1922, making it the longest-running public health observance in the United States. It always includes Oct. 9, the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Local residents are encouraged to follow along with the department's activities, participate in school and community events, and use the week as an opportunity to review safety at home.



CVFD member Travis Stithem, along with fellow volunteers, showed Cozad Elementary students how to properly use a fire extinguisher during Fire Prevention Week in 2024. (CVFD Photos)



ABOVE: Assistant Fire Chief Trevor Munster guided Cozad Elementary students in using a fire hose during the 2024 Fire Prevention Week demonstrations. **BELOW:** Cozad students practiced using the jaws of life by lifting a golf ball from a cone, demonstrating the importance of the rescue tool during last year's Fire Prevention Week.



The Cozad Volunteer Fire Department hosted the Cozad Elementary students at the Fire Hall, where Brenna Earl, Lindsay Wells, Austin Spotanski, and Brian Woldt explained to Cozad students how to use a neck brace and backboard during the 2024 Fire Prevention Week.



CVFD member Brian Woldt demonstrated how a closed door can contain smoke in a room during last year's Fire Prevention Week.



**Thank you to our local firefighters
for their dedication & bravery!**

Let's all do our part
to prevent fires &
keep our community safe.

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Cozad Fire Department Reports Call Totals

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Volunteer Fire Department has responded to 299 calls so far this year through the end of August, highlighting the ongoing commitment of the members to our community, with a special thanks to the members’ employers.

Among those calls, Kent Bartlett has assisted with 199, Jennifer Schneider with 180, Jason Schneider with 162, Lindsay Wells with 149, and Austin Spotanski with 103.

Of the 65 fire calls, Jason Schneider has led 43. Bartlett and Jennifer Schneider each responded to 34, Spotanski to 30, and Chris Allbright to 22.

The department has also handled 234 rescue calls. Bartlett assisted with 157 of them, Jennifer Schneider with 146, Wells with 134, Jason Schneider with 119, and Melissa Baal with 84.

While honoring the dedication of its members, the department also stressed the importance of local employers.

Leaders noted that without the support of businesses allowing employees to leave work at a moment’s notice, Cozad would not have a dependable fire and rescue service.



The Cozad Volunteer Fire Department continues the never-ending training during a monthly meeting in August. (Photo Courtesy CVFD)

CVFD Recognizes 2024 Outstanding Volunteers

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Volunteer Fire Department recently honored members for their service and dedication during the 2024 year.

Camren Maaske received the Rookie of the Year award, while EMT of the Year was awarded to Lindsay Wells. Marlene Williams was recognized as the Outstanding Firefighter, and Trevor Munster earned the Dedicated Service award. Travis Munster received the Teammate Award for his contributions to the department.

The department also recognized the Business of the Year, honoring the Grand Generation Center for its support of Cozad’s fire and rescue efforts.

These awards highlight the commitment of both volunteers and local businesses that help ensure the safety and readiness of the Cozad community.

Daily Safety Tips from the CVFD

LIZ ROMERO

As part of Fire Prevention Week, the Cozad Volunteer Fire Department is sharing a focus for each day. The department encourages residents to take small steps throughout the week to improve safety at home.

- Sunday, Oct. 5 – Learn the risks of lithium-ion batteries. Check devices and replace damaged batteries.
- Monday – Practice safe charging. Charge on hard surfaces and unplug devices when finished.
- Tuesday – Buy safe products. Look for safety certifications and avoid counterfeit chargers or batteries.
- Wednesday – Dispose of batteries correctly. Do not throw them in the trash; use recycling programs.
- Thursday – Test smoke alarms. Make sure alarms are working and less than 10 years old.
- Friday – Plan and practice a home escape. Draw a floor plan, identify exits, and run a drill with your family.
- Saturday, Oct. 11 – Wrap up the week by reviewing safety measures and sharing what you’ve learned.

The department may also host educational programs, school visits, and opportunities for residents to learn more about home fire safety.

“Prevention is one of the best tools we have,” the Cozad Volunteer Fire Department noted. “If families take a few minutes each day to focus on these topics, our community becomes safer.”

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Fire Prevention Week

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Fire Safety During Harvest Season: Essential Tips for Farmers

AMY TIMMERMAN - EXTENSION EDUCATOR

As we enter fall harvest, much of western Nebraska and the Panhandle is facing abnormally dry to severe drought conditions. Additionally, warm and drier-than-normal conditions are expected to persist through the first half of October, which could intensify drought across the state. With weather conditions ripe for quick-moving fires, the risk is heightened by modern farming equipment, which has become larger and more complex over the years. Today's combines, often made with synthetic materials, can easily catch fire, especially when hydraulic leaks or fuel spills come into contact with smoldering crop residue.

Recent studies have shown that most combine fires begin in the engine area, with 76.7% of incidents stemming from contact between crop residue and hot components like exhaust manifolds or turbochargers. When a fire ignites, it can spread rapidly, especially if fuel lines or hydraulic hoses rupture.

Fortunately, advancements in equipment design have improved fire safety features. For instance, newer combines have more powerful radiator fans and strategically placed air intakes to minimize the risk of flammable materials entering critical areas.

Preventing Combine Fires: Key Strategies

- **Keep Equipment Clean:** Regularly clean your combine, especially around the engine and exhaust areas. Use battery-powered leaf blowers or air compressors to clear debris. Power washing can also remove grease and oil that may accelerate a fire.

- **Park Smart:** Allow combines to cool down before parking them in sheds. If parking in the field, choose fire-resistant surfaces and consider creating firebreaks by disking areas around parked equipment.

- **Monitor Engine Load:** Excessive stress on engines can increase fire risk. Be aware that newer engines generate higher temperatures due to emissions standards.

- **Check Bearings:** Overheating bearings can cause fires. Use an infrared thermometer to monitor bearing temperatures and shut down the machine if temperatures exceed safe levels.

- **Harvest Responsibly:** Avoid harvesting during extreme fire weather. Be particularly cautious between 2 and 4 p.m., when conditions are often the most dangerous.

Preparation is Key

- Start harvesting from the downwind side of fields to minimize fire spread risk.

- Keep a cell phone handy for emergencies.

- Carry a 10 lb. ABC fire extinguisher in the combine cab, and remember the PASS technique: Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, Squeeze the trigger, and Sweep across the base of the fire.

- Ensure all extinguishers are regularly checked and maintained.

What to Do if a Fire Occurs

- **Move the Machine:** If safe, pull the combine into areas that have already been harvested.

- **Turn Off the Engine:** This prevents the air intake from feeding the fire.

- **Call for Help:** Dial 911 as soon as possible, providing clear directions for



A single spark in dry conditions can spread fast, here's how to keep combines safe and crews prepared this harvest season. (Photo Courtesy of UNL Extension Office)

emergency services.

- **Contain the Fire:** If the fire is beyond control, focus on preventing it from spreading to nearby vegetation.

Final Thoughts

While proper maintenance and awareness can significantly reduce fire risks, it's crucial to remember that fires can still occur. Stay vigilant this harvest season:

- Clean combines regularly.

- Monitor engine temperatures and bearing conditions.

- Ensure effective communication among crew members.

- Prioritize safety over equipment, no piece of machinery is worth risking a life.

By taking these precautions, we can help protect our farms, our communities, and ourselves during this critical time.

Stay safe out there!

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CVFD 2025 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



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Trevor Munster – Assistant Fire Chief

Jennifer Schneider – Rescue Chief

Brenna Earl – Assistant Rescue Chief

Lindsay Wells – President

Brad Peltier – Vice President, Training Director

Stacy Munster – Secretary

Missy Baal – Treasurer



Chris Allbright

Steve Bihlmaier

Jake Baal

Dave Cullers

Gary Banzhaf

Kelli Cullers

Sharol Banzhaf

Colton Derr

Alison Feik

Tyler Earl

Laura Peltier

Camren Maaske

Brett Sassali

Deb McGee

Scott Schmidt

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- Tie-Breaker: Circle the team that you believe will win between the two provided. For the tie-breaker points, write down your predicted amount of points FOR BOTH TEAMS (i.e. one team scores 7, the other 3, you will mark down 10 points in total.)
- Bring the Official Entry Blank to the Cozad Local office or send to the "Cozad Local Football Contest" c/o Cozad Local - 201 West 8th - Cozad, NE 69130. Send just the entry blank. **Entries must be dropped off by NOON, or postmarked, by the Friday before the weekly games are played.**
- One entry per person per week, please.
- Decisions regarding the outcome of the contest are FINAL!
- Staff members of Syndicate Publishing are not eligible to enter the contest.
- Prize money will be mailed, or available for pick up, the week following the contest.
- Must be 18 or older to enter.
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Haymakers Roll Past Broken Bow 35-14

JAYDEN WILLS

On Sept. 26, the Haymakers continued the start of their season with another victory. The Haymakers secured a home win, 35-14, over Broken Bow. From start to finish, the Haymakers controlled the pace of the game, taking the opportunities they got and shutting down each of Broken Bow's opportunities to earn their third straight win.

The Haymakers wasted no time setting the stage and marched down the field on their first drive, scoring a touchdown. The offensive line set the tone for the evening with a phenomenal rushing game for the running back, Bryson Snider, alongside quarterback Julien Davis. By the end of the first half, the Haymakers had taken the lead, 14-6.

Cozad came out of the locker room after halftime, determined to put the game away. On the first drive of the second half, the Haymakers struck quickly, extending their lead to 21-6. The Haymakers quickly forced another turnover and capitalized with another score to bring their lead to 28-6.

The defense played a crucial role in the victory over the Indians, consistently shutting down drives and preventing them from gaining any momentum. Cozad was especially impressive in the red zone, turning away Broken Bow's scoring chances multiple times and flipping the momentum back to the Haymakers' side.

By the fourth quarter, the Haymakers' discipline took over. One final touchdown in the final minutes of the game sealed Cozad's win 35-14 and showed another full team effort.



Bryson Snider celebrates after scoring the first touchdown of the homecoming game against Broken Bow on Friday, Sept. 26. (LOCAL photo by Jayden Wills)

With the victory, the Haymakers improve to a 3-2 record on the season so far and continue to build confidence heading into the heart of their schedule. The players and coaches will look to carry this momentum forward as they prepare for next week's matchup in Gothenburg on Oct. 3.

Quarterback Julien Davis completed 7 of 15 passes for 179 yards and three touchdowns. Bryson Snider powered the ground game with 10 carries for 74 yards, including a 51-yard touchdown run. Cozad spread the ball among its playmakers, with Braiton Snider hauling in three receptions for 97 yards and two touchdowns, Bryson Snider catching two passes for 25 yards and a score, and Owen Ross adding a 44-yard catch.

Defensively, Bryson Snider led with 17 total tackles, followed by Olliver Davis and Mathew Arndt with 13 each. The Haymakers recorded turnovers with interceptions by Ashton Osborn and Braiton Snider, and a fumble recovery by Davis. On the line, Brayden Barber and Collin McFall each contributed a sack.

The Snider brothers paced the team in all-purpose yards, with Bryson totaling 99, Braiton 97, and Arndt 63. Senior Bryson Snider led the offense with two touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving, while senior Braiton Snider added two touchdown receptions. Freshman Ashton Osborn scored a touchdown after recovering a fumble. On special teams, sophomore Ezequiel Mejiamartinez converted three extra points, and senior Olliver Davis added two successful two-point conversions.

Haymakers Keep Momentum on the Diamond Amid Busy Stretch

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Lady Haymakers softball team has been hitting the diamond hard, balancing a series of challenging games while preparing for senior night. Their matchup against Chase County, originally scheduled for Sept. 23, was postponed to Oct. 2 due to weather. Fans are encouraged to fill the stands to support the team and honor their senior players.

On Sept. 25, Cozad traveled to Ogallala to face Alliance. The Lady Makers scored two runs in both the first and second innings, but Alliance responded with three runs in the third. After scoreless innings through the sixth, Alliance tied the game in the seventh. Cozad answered in the eighth with two runs and held Alliance scoreless to take a 6-4 win.

Sara Howell led the offensive charge, hitting a triple to bring in two runs and later driving in another with a fly ball. Aubrey Hammerlun contributed with a run, and Makenna Broz scored on a hit-by-pitch. Brooklynn Beavers added an RBI on a bunt, and Howell also anchored the pitching staff, keeping Alliance off balance late in the game.

The win set up a matchup with Scottsbluff. Cozad scored first in the opening inning, with Howell doubling in a run and Hammerlun later stealing home. Both teams scored in the third, and the Haymakers took a 4-3 lead in the fourth. However, Scottsbluff scored three in the fifth and two in the seventh, holding Cozad scoreless and securing an 8-4 win. Howell and Hammerlun each contributed RBIs during the game, helping Cozad remain competitive.

Following the split, the Lady Makers traveled to Hastings for another tournament. They faced Lakeview first and fell 4-1, with Makenna Broz scoring the team's lone run on a steal. The loss set up a game against Ord. Cozad fell behind early, allowing four runs in the first inning while scoring two. The Lady Makers erupted in the third inning, scoring six runs. Ord added a run in the fourth, but Cozad responded with an impressive 10-run inning, finishing with an 18-5 victory.

Howell hit a bases-loaded home run, driving in four runs. Other key contributors included Hammerlun with one RBI, Henessy Cargill with two, Clatyn Fleharty and Addison Howerter each driving in one, and Isabella Hernandez with two RBIs while also stealing home. Additional runs came from a forced run, Brittlin Bussinger's stolen run, Brooklynn Beavers' RBI single, and Mallory Munster's single driving in a run.


The tournament concluded with a tough matchup against Kearney Catholic, where the Lady Makers fell 9-0.

The Haymakers now turn their attention to senior night tonight and the rescheduled game against

Chase County on Oct. 2. Fans are encouraged to come out and support the team as they honor their senior players and continue to build momentum in the 12-12 record season.



ABOVE: Aubrey Hammerlun went 7-for-14 at the plate last week, driving in two runs and scoring six. LEFT: Makenna Broz jumped up to make the catch for the Cozad Lady Haymakers. (LOCAL Photos by Barry Mraz)



COZAD FOOTBALL CONTEST
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM - WEEK #5 (Sept. 21)

FOOTBALL CONTEST
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Haymakers Battle Tough Competition at Ogallala

JAYDEN WILLS

The Cozad Haymakers cross country teams faced tough competition on Sept. 25 at the Ogallala Invitational. The Haymaker boys placed eighth overall, and the Haymaker girls placed 11th overall.

On the boys' side, senior Koang Deng led the way for the Haymakers once again, with a time of 16:43.

His top ten finish helped set the pace for other Cozad runners to solidify their eighth-place finish. Other runners also performed well, including Jaxson Ardnt (19:06), Taegan Dexter (19:24), Chase Smith (19:30), Gavin Guerra (19:36), and Cayden Schwarz (21:15).

These great times all reflect the determination of the Haymakers.

On the girls' side, Audrey Baker led Cozad with a good time of 23:15. Other good times from the Cozad girls' side include Crystal Hernandez (24:54), Andrea Saravia Rios (27:30), Reagan Chrisinger (27:32), and Arleth Casillas (27:57). Every one of these times reflects the grit shown throughout the entire race.

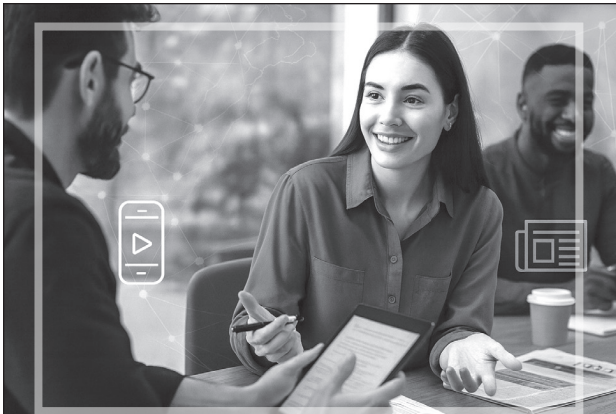
The Haymakers aim to carry this determination into their next meet and reclaim their spot in the top 3 for the boys.

The Haymakers ran at the UNK High School Invitational at the Kearney Country Club on Monday, Sept. 30.

Those results will be in our next issue. They will be attending Southwest Conference on Oct. 9, in Broken Bow.



ABOVE: Koang Deng continues to improve his stride and leads the Haymaker Cross Country team. **BELOW:** Audrey Baker led the Lady Makers cross country team at the Ogallala Invite on Sept. 25. (LOCAL Photos by Barry Mraz)



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Nebraska Press Association

Haymaker Volleyball Keeps Busy with Triangular Action

LIZ ROMERO

The Cozad Lady Haymakers have been active on the court, competing in multiple triangulars over the past week.

On Sept. 23, the Lady Haymakers traveled to Holdrege for a triangular against Ogallala and Holdrege.

Cozad opened the day against Ogallala, where both sets were challenging. Despite competitive rallies, the Haymakers fell 11-25 in both sets.

Next up was Holdrege. Cozad struggled in the first set, losing 13-25, but the team showed growth and resilience in the second set, narrowing the gap to 20-25. While they did not take the match, the effort indicated improvement and determination to keep fighting through tough competition.

Returning home on Sept. 25, the Lady Haymakers hosted their own triangular, facing Sutherland and Maxwell. Cozad came out strong against Sutherland, controlling both sets and winning decisively 25-14 and 25-11. The team carried that momentum into the match against Maxwell. Despite consistent pressure from the visitors, the Lady Haymakers pulled off another two-set victory, 25-21 and 25-16, showing their ability to adjust and compete effectively at home.

Cozad's next action on the court will be on Oct. 7, when the Lady Haymakers host a triangular against Ord and Broken Bow. Stats from the recent matches were not available, but the team's continued improvement and strong performance at home highlight their determination as the season progresses.



The Haymakers' sideline was loud after they won an intense volley. (Cozad LOCAL by Barry Mraz)

SPECIALIST SCHEDULE | OCTOBER 2025

CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Gorantla: Oct 9
Dr. Katta: Oct 13
Dr. Kummer: Oct 20, 22

CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Dr. de Brito McGee: Oct 8

GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Buser: Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Dr. Luebbe: Oct 10, 24
Dr. Seip: Oct 3, 17, 31

GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS

Dr. Adam: Oct 2, 9, 23, 30

NEPHROLOGY

Dr. Islam: Oct 21

ORTHOPEDIC SPINE

Dr. Ray: Oct 13, 14, 27, 28

ORTHOPEDICS

Dr. Schopp: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28

PAIN MANAGEMENT

Dr. Williams: Oct 15

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Dr. Bussard: Oct 27

PODIATRY

Dr. Wray: Oct 2, 16

PULMONOLOGY

Dr. Ganatra: Oct 7

UROLOGY

Dr. Rutman: Oct 6, 7, 20

To schedule an appointment, please call (308) 324-8343



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- Branson Christmas #3
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- Branson Praisefest
Dec. 9-13, 2025
- Nashville Christmas Splendor
Dec. 11-15, 2025

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The Sound That Shook Me, the Truth That Grounds Me

It was a gorgeous fall evening in Nebraska. Community members filled the small park at the center in our rural town. The annual weekend celebration offered children’s games, a magic show, food, and laughter. I glanced around as vendors set up and families arrived, their anticipation humming in the air.

Then came the sound. A car backfired as it passed. Sharp pops rang through the air. I jumped, then ducked. My heart pounded as I searched for the cause.

I didn’t grow up around guns. My dad, a Vietnam veteran, kept an old, unloaded rifle tucked away, but he never talked about his experiences. I only hunted once with family. As a teacher, I remember conversations about arming educators. I knew I could never carry a weapon—I wasn’t equipped to do more good than harm.

That fall evening, the echo of those pops terrified me.



I’m not embarrassed to admit that I can’t always tell the difference between a gunshot and a backfire. I don’t have much experience with either. But here’s what I do know: no small-town celebration, no church, no school, no store is immune to the possibility of gun violence.

This is not a political column. I’m not trying to persuade anyone to take a side. I’m simply sharing my truth: I long to live in a world where I don’t have to fear gun violence. And I want that world for my grandsons too.

Yet, it seems that we drift farther apart with each day. Differences don’t just divide us– they widen into chasms. Still, I see people increasingly wearing shirts with simple messages: Be Kind. Be a Good Human. And I’m reminded of a powerful truth: what we focus on grows.

I think back to the Women’s World Cup. Before each game, the Unity Beat pulsed through the stadium. People from every walk of life clapped together, joining in one rhythm. For a moment, we remembered: we belong to each other. We are one humanity.

So I ask myself, what will you focus on? For me, the choice is love, acceptance, empathy, and grace. I will let go of judgment, hatred, fear, and resentment. I am only one person, but each choice adds to the whole. One by one, we shift the trajectory.

Jesus said it best: Love your neighbor as yourself.

DAWSON COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

PERSONS IN THIS STATEMENT ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW. CONTENT PROVIDED BY NEWSBUDDY.ORG

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

No Reported Arrests

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Galia-Ruiz, Elmer Saul – 25
Lexington, NE – 09/20/2025 – 09:12 – 1st Degree Sexual Assault, Strangulation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Gonzalez, Edgar Antonio – 33
Lexington, NE – 09/21/2025 – 18:35 – Failure to Purge

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Merced-Merced Sr., Emmanuel – 36
Gothenburg, NE – 09/22/2025 – 09:06 – Child Abuse, Debauching a Minor, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, Procuring for a Minor

Cabrera-Mendez, Jose Adalmiro – 35
Bridgeport, CT – 09/22/2025 – 20:02 – Possession with Intent to Deliver – Schedule 1, Heroin Possession – 140 grams or more, No Drug Tax Stamp

Medina-De-Quinonez, Maribel – 56
Bridgeport, CT – 09/22/2025 – 20:02 – Possession with Intent to Deliver – Schedule 1, Heroin Possession – 140 grams or more, Drug Tax

Barkley, Dennis Aaron – 39
Shelton, NE – 09/22/2025 – 22:49 – Shoplifting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Masters, Savannah Marie – 38
Minden, NE – 09/23/2025 – 22:49 – Shoplifting \$0-\$500

Banos-Cordero, Luis Enrique – 57
Lexington, NE – 09/23/2025 – 18:32 – Trespassing 2nd Degree

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Pittman Sr., Joseph A – 36
Cozad, NE – 09/24/2025 – 13:25 – Driving Under Suspension

Ramirez, Marcos Antonio – 18
Lexington, NE – 09/24/2025 – 15:28 – Driving Under the Influence – Drugs

Atiz, Archie Kekoa – 31
Cozad, NE – 09/24/2025 – 15:45 – Failure to Appear – Driving Under Suspension

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Chavez, Roberta – 42
Lexington, NE – 09/25/2025 – 17:01 – Gosper County – Driving Under Suspension Before Reinstated, Lancaster County Warrant – Time Pay Warrant

UPCOMING EVENTS: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2nd - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8th

2 THUR	3 FRI	4 SAT	5 SUN	6 MON	7 TUES	8 WED
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES Oct 1- 31st- Five Little Pumpkins Scavenger Hunt @ WPL Oct 1- 16th- Pumpkin Drop Off @ WPL 11a- Storytime @ WPL	NO SCHOOL 1:30p- Brick-or-Treat @ WPL 11a- Earls AutoGlass Customer Appreciation Luncheon 7p- Varsity FB @ Gothenburg	Harvest of Harmony @ Norfolk	THANK YOU to all of the volunteers at the Cozad Fire Department for all you do to keep our community safe. 	Mad Hatter Day @ WPL ALL DAY- Girl's Golf V Districts 	WORLD SMILE DAY 12p- Lunch & Learn @ Cozad GGC 1p- Meadowlark Point Book Club @ WPL 3p- Halloween Egg Carton Crafts @ WPL	ASTRONOMY DAY All Day APPLY2COLLEGE DAY 



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Legals

Notice NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT TO DISESTABLISH PATERNITY AND DETERMINE PATERNITY AND CUSTODY TO

MARVI ORDONEZ MARTIN:
You are hereby notified that Emily Chavez filed a Complaint to Disestablish Paternity and Determine Paternity and Custody against you in the District Court of Dawson County, Nebraska on August 29, 2025. The case is titled Emily Chavez vs. Marvi Ordonez Martin and Marvin Samael Lima Contreras and appears as Case No. C125-266 in the Dawson County District Court. The complaint requests paternity of the minor child disestablished with you and be established with another individual. You must respond by filing your answer with the Dawson County District Court, 700 North Washington, Room E, Lexington, Nebraska 68850 within 30 days of the last publication of this notice.

Emily Chavez, Plaintiff,
By: Claire K. Bazata
of Berreckman & Bazata,
P.C., L.L.O.
Attorneys at Law
801 Meridian Avenue,
P.O. Box 214
Cozad, Nebraska 69130-0214
(308) 784-2040
(308) 784-2043 - fax
cbazata@cozadtel.net
Sep. 25, 2025
Oct. 2, 2025
Oct. 9, 2025
(42) znez

Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the City Council of the City of Cozad, Nebraska will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025, at the City Office Building, which meeting will be open to the public. The Mayor and City Council reserve 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 City Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

Brandi Kloepping
Cozad City Clerk
Oct. 2, 2025
(21) znez

Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that JBAH, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The designated office of the company is located at 42860 Road 760, Cozad, Nebraska. The registered agent of the company is Bonnie A. Hubbard, whose address is 42860 Road 760 Cozad, Nebraska. The company filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State on August 6, 2025. The nature of the business is to engage in any lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska. The affairs of the company will be conducted by its members.

JBAH, LLC
By: Bonnie A. Hubbard
42860 Road 760
Cozad, NE 69130
Sep. 25, 2025
Oct. 2, 2025
Oct. 9, 2025
(27) znez

Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Cozad Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will be held Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Haymaker Haven Community Room (421 West 9th Street). A draft agenda is available to the public at the Housing Authority office.
Oct. 2, 2025
(11) znez

Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that Prairie Paperie, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The designated office of the company is located at 42860 Road 760, Cozad, Nebraska. The registered agent of the company is Bonnie A. Hubbard, whose address is 42860 Road 760 Cozad, Nebraska. The company filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State on September 18, 2025. The nature of the business is to engage in any lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska. The affairs of the company will be conducted by its members.

Prairie Paperie, LLC
By: Bonnie A. Hubbard
42860 Road 760
Cozad, NE 69130
Sep. 25, 2025
Oct. 2, 2025
Oct. 9, 2025
(28) znez

Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF

SCHMIED SEED, LLC

Notice is hereby given that SCHMIED SEED, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office at 103 Johnson Place, Eustis, NE 69028. Its registered agent is CNRA, LLC at 121 E. 8th Street, PO Box 229, Cozad, NE 69130.
Hart, Huyser & Miller,
P.C., L.L.O.
Attorneys at Law

Sep. 25, 2025
Oct. 2, 2025
Oct. 9, 2025
(16) znez

Notice

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DAWSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF EULEN C. WHITTEN, SR., DECEASED. ESTATE NO. PR25-82

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 17th day of September, 2025, in the County Court of Dawson County, Nebraska, Elica Toni Rieker, whose address is 75066 Road 415, Eustis, NE 69028 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 25th day of November, 2025, or be forever barred.
Myndee M Hagan
Clerk of the County Clerk
Bronson J. Malcom, #23661
Malcom, Nelsen
& Windrum, LLC
Attorney for Applicant

809 Meridian, PO Box 174
Cozad, NE 69130
308-784-2048
Sep. 25, 2025
Oct. 2, 2025
Oct. 9, 2025
(30) znez


Notice

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR CHILD TO DANIEL EDUARDO RAMIREZ RODAS:

You are hereby notified that Yosari Disus filed a Petition for Name Change of Minor Child in the District Court of Dawson County, Nebraska on July 24, 2025. The case is titled Yosari Disus, Petitioner, as Guardian and Next Friend of the Minor Child, Dael Mateo Ramirez Rodas and appears as Case No. C125-222 in the Dawson County District Court. An additional case is titled Yosari Disus, Petitioner, as Guardian and Next Friend

of the Minor Child, Adael Zayd Ramirez Rodas and appears as Case No. C125-223 in the Dawson County District Court. The Petitioner requests the name of the minor child in each matter to be changed. You must respond by filing your answer with the Dawson County District Court, 700 North Washington, Room E, Lexington, Nebraska 68850 within 30 days of the last publication of this notice.
Yosari Disus, Petitioner,
By: Claire K. Bazata of Berreckman & Bazata, P.C., L.L.O.
Attorneys at Law
801 Meridian Avenue,
P.O. Box 214
Cozad, Nebraska 69130-0214
(308) 784-2040
(308) 784-2043 - fax
cbazata@cozadtel.net
Sep. 25, 2025
Oct. 2, 2025
Oct. 9, 2025
(45) znez





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Last updated on Sept. 23, 2025



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Legals

Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING
COZAD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
DAWSON COUNTY NEBRASKA
MONDAY,
OCTOBER 13, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Notice is hereby given that a Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Cozad Board of Education, District 11 of Dawson County, Nebraska will be held Monday, October 13, 2025, 7:00 PM, at the Office of the Superintendent, 420

East 14th Street, Cozad, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, which shall be kept continually current, is available for public inspection at the superintendent of school's office during normal business hours.

Dr. Dan Endorf,
Superintendent
Cozad Community
School District No. 11
Oct. 2, 2025
(28) 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, October 9, 2025, 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.
Oct. 2, 2025
(13) znez

NOTICE OF BUDGET SUMMARY CHANGES

COZAD RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #7

September 9, 2025

	PREVIOUS BUDGET SUMMARY	UPDATED BUDGET SUMMARY
2025-2026 Proposed Budget of Disbursements & Transfers	\$ 1,059,000.00	\$ 1,085,000.00
2025-2026 Necessary Cash Reserve	\$ 51,085.00	\$ 25,085.00

This is a result of an increase to budgeted building costs.

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Safety Tip



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ROADWORK &
WATCH FOR
WORKERS**



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cozad Volunteer Fire Department will be performing a Controlled Burn on a house in Cozad for training purposes. The burn will take place on October 5th, with an alternate date of October 12th. The location is Lot one (1), Block four (4), Claypod and Colby's addition to the City of Cozad, Dawson County, NE, 1115 E Street, Cozad, NE.



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Game Page

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56			57	58		59				60			61
62			63		64				65				66
67			68									69	
	70								71				

Weekly Crossword Sponsored by:



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

44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

45. Neither

47. The center of a city

48. Sacrifice hit in baseball

50. Singer Redding

52. Dragged forcibly

54. Puncture with a knife

56. Belonging to me

57. Expresses surprise

59. Haul

60. The Golden State

61. Biblical Sumerian city

62. Integrated circuit

63. Opposed to certain principles

66. Sodium

67. Qualities

70. Walk

71. It awaits us all
29. Most cushy

31. Moon crater

33. Small evergreen Arabian tree

36. Something fugitives are "on"

38. 007's creator

39. Paintings on hinged panels

41. Type of bomb

42. Japanese classical theater

43. U.S. gov't department

46. Flightless bird

47. One who cuts wood or stone

49. Buttock and thigh together

51. A way to gather

53. Body part

54. Argentinian city

55. Undergarments

58. Jai ___, sport

60. Container for shipping

64. Type of screen

65. Get free of

68. Indicates position

69. Business department

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly

2. Peyton Manning's alma mater

3. Moves through water

4. Run away from

5. Utah resident

6. Natural objects

7. Children's game

8. Obligation to prove

9. Ancient Greek building for performances

10. Soldier

11. Decorated

12. Catches

13. Russell ___, author

14. Speak indistinctly

15. Students get them

25. Japanese warrior

26. Dessert

27. Doleful

CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China

6. The butt of jokes

12. Nevertheless

16. Sportscaster Michaels

17. A firm believer

18. Atomic #18

19. One's bestie

20. Of I

21. Hamburger accessory

22. Thus

23. Partner to Pa

24. Scottish tax
26. Cuts away

28. Require

30. Government lawyer

31. Own (Scottish)

32. Body cavity

34. Brew

35. Young woman (French)

37. Platforms

39. Pair of points in mathematics

40. Attack suddenly

41. Aviators

43. Make perfect

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in Connecticut on October 16, 1977. I worked for more than a year as a gas station attendant to afford a guitar from a famous player. My debut album reached multi-platinum status. Though I'm an accomplished singer, I may be better known for my guitar skills.

SOLUTIONS 09-25-2025

4	2	8	1	9	3	6	7	5
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Oct 3rd – Oct 9th
The Senior, PG
One Battle After Another, R
Gabby's Dollhouse, G
Taylor Swift: Life of a Showgirl, PG-13
Open Daily!
Matinees on Saturday & Sunday
WatchTheFox.com

SOLUTION 09-25-2025

Guess Who?

Answer: Elisabeth Shue

from FRONT - Homecoming

announced winners of the week’s dress-up days, who received prizes. The cheer and dance teams then led class cheers for the Homecoming pitchfork. The seniors, boosted by megaphones, were judged the loudest and claimed the pitchfork back from the juniors.

CHS Principal Corey Fisher closed the rally by urging students to support the football team that night. The rally ended with the Haymaker band leading the school song.

Before the game, the Cozad Band parents and students held their annual sloppy joe and pie feed fundraiser, with proceeds matched by the Cozad Community Schools Foundation to help purchase new band uniforms.

Royalty candidates were introduced with their parents. 2024 Mid-Winter Dance King Mason Fales crowned the Homecoming King, Koang Deng, while 2024 Homecoming Queen McKenzie Munster crowned the Homecoming Queen, Clatyn Fleharty.

The week concluded with the Homecoming dance on Saturday, Sept. 27.



ABOVE: A game of “head, shoulders, knees, toes, cone”, which featured members from softball Addy Howerter, Sara Howell, and Mallory Munster; football, Olliver Davis, Bryson Snider, and Braiton Snider; golf Abbie Albrecht, Ava Joyce, and Ella Atchison; cross country Gavin Guerra, Chandler Kaup, and Chase Smith; volleyball Abby Negley, Braelyn Malcom, and Whitney Regelin; and faculty, Heather Schultz, Jennifer Walls, Alisa Favinger, and Brandon Horwart. After several rounds, Bryson Snider was declared the winner. **BELOW:** The Cozad co-ed dance team kept the Cozad crowd entertained at the pep rally and during halftime of the football game against Broken Bow on Friday, Sept. 26.



ABOVE: The pizza box game with senior boys Olliver Davis, Bryson Snider, Braiton Snider, Gage Strauss, Koang Deng, Daygn Buss, and Drake Hasbrouck taking on coaches Dreu Young, Conor Young, Trey Botts, Chris Tvrdy, Kaleb Lusetto, and Dillon Higgins. They had to balance a pizza box in one hand while circling and trying to knock down others’ boxes. The last one standing, and winner, was Coach Dreu Young. **BELOW:** The Haymaker Pep Band, under the direction of band director DeVere Larington, performed during halftime of the Cozad football game. (LOCAL Photos by Barry Mraz)



10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80-90-100

Go Haymaker Football!

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