

## Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times  
Thursday, 14 October 2010 22:09 -

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**Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.**

### **Animals blessed to be annual event**

COZAD—Forty-nine were in attendance for the first annual “Blessing of the Animals,” service at the American Lutheran Church on Oct. 3, and only 29 of those walked on two legs with the remainder being four-legged. Blessed by Pastor Mike Parsh were 16 puppies and dogs, one cat, three kittens and two donkeys. The Blessing of Pets custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures. The bond between person and pet is like on other relationship as the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Pets prove to be true companions.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

### **Broken Bow back to two grocery town**

BROKEN BOW—It is big news for the community of Broken Bow as well as shoppers from the surrounding area, as later this month two grocery stores will again be serving customers in this central Nebraska area. The sale of Bow Food Pride became official Oct. 1 when the Schmick family of McCook closed the deal on the local store. Robert Schmick will run the store at Broken Bow, and his four sons will operate the store at McCook.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

### **McConaughy to host triathlon in 2011**

OGALLALA—An abundance of water, smoothly paved roadways and plenty of parking make Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area the perfect place to host a triathlon. A collaboration of people including representatives from the Goodall and North Platte Rec Centers, the Ogallala Rotary Club, Do It Local, avid athletes and more are in the preliminary planning stage to host the Dam Triathlon at the lake area in the summer of 2011. The triathlon would include a

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500-meter swim, a 15-mile bike ride and a 5-K run.—reported in the Keith County News.

### **Construction begins for NCTA Ed. Center**

CURTIS—Signs of new construction on the NCTA campus was evident by recent increased activity and large machinery on the baseball field, meaning that the new NCTA Education Center is going to be a reality. Funding for student housing was also approved and bonds will be sold. The new Aggie Central will have 80 beds and 40 rooms for first-year students.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

### **Band raises funds for local theatre**

ARNOLD—A superb group of musicians, “The Timekiller Band” traveled a very long distance from their home in Oklahoma to perform at the Arnold Community Center Oct. 9. While entertaining, the group also helped to raise money for the local Rialto Theatre. The men in the group are friends of rural Arnold residents Craig and Linda Halstead and wanted to be here to help with harvest and offered to play as a fundraiser.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

### **Firewood gathered for ailing pastor**

CALLAWAY—Over 27 friends, neighbors and Callaway Community Church members cut and split firewood into a big farm truck at a rate that would do any lumber mill proud. Volunteers gathered at a windbreak on the Elmo Witthuhn farm recently to gather firewood for ailing Community Church Pastor Dean Haidle and his family. They hauled approximately six cords of firewood into town and stacked it at the Haidle’s wood shed. Pastor Haidle, 38, usually does this himself as the family heats their home almost exclusively with wood, but he had an unexpected stroke and is still in recovery.—reported in the Callaway Courier.