

## Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times  
Thursday, 14 July 2011 19:28 -

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Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

### 'Journey Stories' exhibit coming to Cozad

COZAD—"Journey Stories," the theme for the National Smithsonian Exhibit, will open in Cozad Sept. 1, 2012. The exhibit, to be housed at the 100th Meridian Museum, will portray "how and why people immigrated to America." Members of the National Smithsonian Leadership Committee are involved in preparing the event. In addition, Cozad will celebrate the act signed by President Lincoln, 150 years ago, that challenged the Union Pacific Railroad to reach the 100th Meridian.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

### USDA to build new office in Broken Bow

BROKEN BOW—The west edge of Broken Bow continues to grow, and recently, plans were announced for the addition of another office along West Highway 2. Executive director of Nebraska Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced the award of a new lease in Broken Bow for approximately 4,751 square feet of new office space. The lease provides office space for USDA's FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service agencies who provide significant education, technical and financial services and benefits to agriculture and rural communities in Custer County.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

### Lakes report stellar visitation over holiday

OGALLALA—Although the wet start to the Fourth of July weekend had worried some campers at Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala State recreation areas, it had turned stellar, as proved by the huge crowds. Nebraska Game and Parks West Region Parks Manager reported from 33,000 to 35,000 people visited the lake recreation areas daily. In total, during the four-day

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weekend, visitation was estimated about 145,000. Officials reported a good weekend with little trouble and only minor incidents.—reported in the Keith County News.

### Harvesting of the past draws curious crowds

CURTIS—Crowds came to watch a day dedicated to the late Kenneth Smith, who showed present generations how it was in the “good ole days.” The past came alive on July 3 when members of the Q125 committee used a John Deere 630 tractor and an early 1940’s John Deere binder to bind some oats on the west edge of Eustis. Those attending the event were able to witness harvesting of the past. The binding and shocking of oats would also prepare the field for a threshing demonstration to take place in August.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

### SORC earns notoriety in Nebraska magazine

ARNOLD—The Sandhills Open Road Challenge (SORC) has brought more notoriety to Arnold in the July/August 2011 issue of Nebraska Life magazine. The seven-page, full color layout is titled, “Sandhills Speed Racers.” The article hails the SORC as “the nation’s toughest open road race,” and features beautiful photography of last year’s race. Organizers and racers were also interviewed, along with two local competitors.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

### Nebraska family packs house at Callaway

CALLAWAY—A capacity crowd recently filled the Callaway Community Center to hear Pastor Todd Burpo, along with his family, share their message in his book, “Heaven is for Real.” Burpo of Imperial was accompanied by his wife Sonja and young sons, Colton and Colby. The story is based upon Colton’s afterlife experience when he was just three years old. The presentation began with a vocal music selection by now 12-year-old Colton, followed by an overview of the family’s life experiences. A video was then followed by the message of salvation and a question-answer session. The event was the culmination of several months planning by a local group.—reported in the Callaway Courier.