

## Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times  
Friday, 22 June 2012 13:27 -

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Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

### Large crowd helps round up Plum Creek Rodeo

**COZAD**—The competition came from far and wide across the Midwest to challenge for top honors at the ninth annual Plum Creek Rodeo held at the Dawson County Fairgrounds in Lexington recently. Numerous area cowgirls and cowboys stacked up against the best and earned big paydays and recognition from the large crowd in attendance. For the second straight year, Gothenburg's John Bartlett was the victor in the age 45 and older calf roping event. Bartlett tied his calf in 12.4 seconds to earn top honors. The Hudson Rodeo Company provided stock for the competition events.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

### Community pays final tributes for coaches

**BROKEN BOW**—Meant to be a final goodbye—a celebration of the lives of two special men who impacted a school and a community—mission accomplished. It was standing room only recently as hundreds of students, parents, alumni, friends, family and community members packed into the Broken Bow Municipal Auditorium for a final tribute to Coach Zane Harvey and Coach Anthony Blum, killed in a June 1 traffic accident near Ansley. It was a positive celebration service with stories and memories being shared. A memorial cross was also constructed on State Highway 2 as a tribute to those who died in the accident and also as a reminder to drive safe. The public is invited to sign the cross. Other recent tributes have included decorating the lawns of both coaches' homes with flowers, signs and mementos, and bracelets were made, ribbons hung, stories told and tears and laughter shared.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

### Three qualify for All-American Derby

**OGALLALA**—Three youth qualified at Ogallala for the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby. Trevin Tuma, Johanna Vedder and Jasmine Schultz earned the right to compete during the derby at Akron, OH. Tuma of Ogallala won the stock division of the local qualifier at the Wild West Soap Box Derby track. North Platte's Vedder won the super stock division title, and Schultz of Grant won the super kids division to earn a trip to Ohio. A total of 33 racers competed.—reported in the Keith County News.

### **Fifty years of coaching youth sports ending**

**CURTIS**—Coach Elroy Pierce is retiring. Pierce has been coaching for one sport or another for 50 years including football, basketball, cross country, track and field. He decided to become a coach when he started running track back in junior high and went on to compete for Nebraska State College, now University for Nebraska at Kearney. He trained as a teacher and took his first position at McPherson County High School in Tryon where he coached football, basketball and track. After two years, he moved to Eustis where he has lived and worked for the last 48 years along with teaching English and physical education during his tenure. He also served as athletic director at Eustis-Farnam for 27 years. Pierce says it's not about him, it's about the kids, and it's the kids that are the stars. He now plans to kick back, spend a lot of time with family and go on trips. Advice for the next coach includes having compassion for kids and treating them fairly.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

### **First recital of elite dance conservatory**

**ARNOLD**—“Elite dance conservatory students present first recital”After nine months of instruction at Arnold's new Elite Dance Conservatory, 14 students presented their first dance recital June 3 at the high school auditorium. An estimated 160 fans of the arts turned out to watch the recital titled, “Gotta Dance.” The program opened with all of the students ranging in age from 3 to 14, and featured professional choreography and several changes in costumes from all over the country. The conservatory is instructed by Eileen Bowen Moser who danced and taught professionally in New York City. She opened the dance studio last year where the basement of the Baptist Church was turned into a studio.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

### **Snapshot becomes inspirational painting**

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**CALLAWAY**—What started as a family snapshot has turned into something more for the Scholfield and McFate families as well as McMeen Physical Therapy in Callaway. A painting by local artist Diane Ready was hung at McMeen Physical Therapy in Callaway depicting an old man and his grandson walking down a driveway to check the mail. The man depicted is the late Buddy Schofield and the small boy is Caleb McFate, son of Michael and Ronda McFate. Daughter Rhonda snapped the picture in 2008 when Caleb walked with his grandfather, and later posted the picture to Facebook. Ready saw the picture posted and committed it to canvas. The painting captures inspirational messages of the aging population and the caring of the younger generation and is appropriate for the office to help inspire others.—reported in the Callaway Courier.