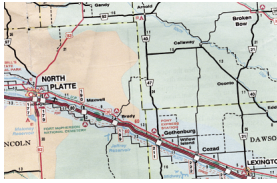


Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times
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Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Triathlon to test strength, endurance

COZAD—Strength and endurance of participants will be tested on July 15 when the Johnson Lake Triathlon is held. The event starts with a 1500-meter swim in the waters of Johnson Lake, soon after the swim, the athletes or team members will bike 24.9 miles and to conquer the triathlon, there will be a 6.2 mile run to finish the competition. There will be age and gender divisions that will receive medals for top finishes. Top three individuals will receive trophies for their efforts, and there will also be team divisions consisting of two or three members with women, men and coed divisions being available for participants. A rainout day is set for Aug. 28 in case of inclement weather.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Oldest Custer County church closes doors

BROKEN BOW—The oldest church in Custer County officially closed its doors June 17 when the congregation voted unanimously last January to decommission the church. It was time they said as their congregation was getting older and the upkeep becoming hard, but the decision wasn't easy as many grew up between its walls, as did their children. The congregation celebrated their last communion together as a congregation on that Sunday, and wanting to finish big, 50 people or more joined their voices in song for the last time. Organized in 1879, the Westerville Methodist Church carries the distinction of being the oldest church in the county. The membership is now seeking out new church homes.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Juvenile attempts robbery with BB gun

OGALLALA—An attempted robbery of Ogallala Kwik Stop was thwarted when the cashier told

the subject he was calling the police. According to Ogallala Police Chief, a man with his face concealed and carrying a gun walked into the local convenience store and demanded cash. The cashier was able to see the subject was using a BB gun and told the subject he was calling the police, at which time the subject fled on foot. Officers arrived but were unable to locate the suspect. However, a witness observed a vehicle and the license plates. Video was obtained from the surveillance cameras and a positive identification was made. A 16-year-old suspect from Lisco was arrested with more arrests expected.—reported in the Keith County News.

Groundwater allocation approved

CURTIS—The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors approved 7-4 a 60-inch five year ground

water irrigation allocation at their recent meeting after hearing or receiving written testimony. The newly adopted revised rules and regulations provide for an allocation similar to what is currently in place which expires at the end of this year. The new allocation provides for 60 inches of water over five years with a base allocation of 12 inches for any given year beginning with the 2013 irrigation season. Other revisions to the rules and regulations adopted include changes to supplemental well acres, compact call year response and certification of non-use.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Distance learning equipment a reality

ARNOLD—Members of the Arnold School Board recently voted unanimously to purchase portable distance education equipment at a cost of \$7,000. The new equipment will set the school up for distance learning for three different classes going on at three different sites. Another perk is that the school will get \$1,000 per each Distance Education Unit (DEU) incentive back from the state. All totaled, the school will be getting several thousand back for its distance learning which includes Spanish, web design, dual credit English and journalism. The new equipment could also open some advanced math classes.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Oconto Q-125 features unique souvenirs

CALLAWAY—Oconto is celebrating its 125th birthday in 2012, culminating in its annual Fun Day Q-125 celebration July 6-8. Special memorabilia is being offered including special pottery, a rifle raffle, Q-125 belt buckles and Q-125 pictorial postmarks. The commemorative belt buckles are engraved with 1887-2012, and being prominent are Oconto public buildings including the train depot. It also depicts a tornado that hit the town in 2000. It is a limited edition run and No. 256 will be auctioned at a banquet. In honor of the post office history and Q-125, a special pictorial postmark has been commissioned as the post office was in danger of closure but has since been spared.—reported in the Callaway Courier.