

Area News Digest

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

Rock, Roll & Run kicks off Bands, Brew & BBQs

COZAD—“On your marks, get set, go” will again echo through the streets of Cozad during the sixth annual Rock, Roll and Run that will be held the morning of July 14 to give the Bands, Brews and Barbecue celebration a running start. This year, the mile, 5K and 10K events will begin at the Cozad Community Wellness Center with the top three winners in each age division to receive awards.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Lightning, dry tinder causes fire at Halsey

BROKEN BOW—Memories of 1965 ran through conversations as word spread the forest was on fire. Area old timers remembered being pulled out of school as teenagers to fight the fire. The Nebraska National Forest, Bessey District, fell victim to a lightning strike on June 30. This time, fire fighters were able to corral the blaze where a lightening strike on dry conditions approximately 22 miles of southeast of Halsey was credited as the cause. The 1965 fire had burned around 10,000 acres, and as of July 2, 1,043 acres had burned at Camp 5 with 50-percent containment.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Lake Ogallala to receive upgrades

OGALLALA—Lake Ogallala will get a jolt this summer with the replacement of old electrical pedestals and the addition of a playground. Park Superintendent Bill Oligmueller said a \$50,000 grant from the Keith County Visitors Committee, matched with an additional \$50,000 from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will provide a total of 38 new campground pedestals at Lake Ogallala. Among other improvements are a playground, picnic shelters, vault toilets and

repairing of docks and shoreline restoration.—reported in the Keith County News.

Wagon train roams Curtis back roads

CURTIS—Covered wagons were seen in Curtis throughout the week of June 28 as the Mid-West Wagon Train roamed the back roads. This was the 28th year that wagon train enthusiasts had been getting together. The adventure started in 1984 as part of Nebraskaland Days with a trek from McCook to North Platte. Since that time, the group has grown substantially with participants from Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wisconsin, Texas, South Dakota, Wyoming, Missouri and Iowa. This year's wagon train took 10-15 mile day trips along country roads around Curtis then camped at night at Mill Park.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Arnold is retaining more of its graduates

ARNOLD—According to research done using the Arnold High School Alumni Directory, Arnold has reported retaining or drawn back a good percentage of its graduates. The 1,520 people who graduated from Arnold High School between the years of 1950 to 2012 were divided into three categories: those in Arnold, those in Nebraska, and those out of state. In those categories, there were 342 people who had lived or are living in Arnold and 1,083 in Nebraska, with Nebraska retaining the biggest percentage of graduates and Arnold retaining 22.5 percent of its graduates. The return of citizens to their hometown increases “social capital” and adds vitality to rural small towns.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Locals venture to assist Bagarmi mission

CALLAWAY—The Callaway United Methodist Church has been assisting the people of Bagarmi, a tiny village in Nigeria, through clean water wells, education and health care. Ken Pitkin of Callaway recently made his third trip back to Bagarmi along with two more missionaries, Ken Rigler and Jim Jenkins, to assist with projects. The trio traveled to and from the United States, and in between, they helped build a new health clinic where none stood before, checked on Bagarmi's little school, it's church and several deep-water wells which have become so vital to the health of other people around the region.—reported in the Callaway Courier.

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