

Area News Digest

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

Former Lexington police officer is arrested

COZAD—A former Lexington Police Department officer, Terrance Smith, has been charged with one count of criminal trespass-first degree, and official misconduct while on duty. A warrant was issued and Smith was taken into custody at his residence on July 10. Bond was set at 10% of \$5,000. The owner of Landmark Implement contacted the Dawson County Attorney's office about surveillance footage showing someone in a police uniform entering the business after hours on May 19. After investigation Smith, who had served on the force for seven years, was seen allegedly entering the building where \$700 has been stolen from the office since May of last year. Smith's employment was terminated on June 10.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

1930s Church becomes community center

BROKEN BOW—An old church dating from the 1930s era has been christened with a new purpose in Comstock. The former Methodist Church is now the Comstock Wreck Center, creating for the community an exercise facility, theater and community recreation center. The church was first given to the village by the governing body of the Methodist Church when it closed, and then last July, the village sold the building at auction to Henry Nuxoll. Nuxoll turned the building into a not-for-profit recreational center to benefit the community and its youth.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Hospital officially begins new addition

OGALLALA—Although ceremonial shovels had a hard time breaking ground at the site of a \$2 million expansion of Ogallala Community Hospital, heavy machinery is anticipated to begin the real work at the end of the month. Local dignitaries and hospital representatives praised the project that is sure to enhance the healthcare opportunities for Keith and area counties residents who utilize the medical facility. The new addition, to be built on the northwest side of the facility, will house a specialty clinic and an infusion area.—reported in the Keith County News.

NCTA expands Vet Tech program to Omaha

CURTIS—A branch of the animal health care and education scene will be extending from Curtis to Omaha next year thanks to visionaries seeing a need for more licensed veterinary technicians in the Cornhusker State. In the fall of 2014, NCTA faculty will be teaching the core Veterinary Technician (Vet Tech) curriculum plus more customized classes to the first students in the new program to be delivered at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) campus in Omaha.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Quilt show takes viewers on trip to past

ARNOLD—Over 150 people viewed the 55 beautiful, intricate quilts that were on display at Riverview on the Fourth of July. Quilts ranged from being recently made to very old. One quilt traveled all the way from Kenya and was displayed. Another quilt was made recently by the Baptist women and each square represented a symbol from the Underground Railroad. A flower quilt made from old sugar and flour sacks was another favorite display where many took viewers on an experience of the past while appreciating the craftsmanship.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

New tradition is sparked by local family

CALLAWAY—In what is quickly becoming a new Callaway tradition, the twilight sky over the ball fields exploded with light color and sound as the Sue Phelps family shot off a vast array of skyrockets to patriotic music for the edification of the celebrating audience on July 4th. Members of the Lions Club gave away hotdogs and drinks while children collected toys, the Legion Color Guard opened the festivities and volunteer firefighters kept a close eye on stray sparks on the warm and dry night. The entire affair was funded through donations Sue Phelps collects each year to pay for the display.—reported in the Callaway Courier.