

Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times

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Taken from news columns of area newspapers.

Gov. Heineman awards Cozad Public Schools

COZAD—Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman recently toured Cozad school facilities and presented Superintendent John Grinde with a special honor. Cozad was recognized with a Governor's Award for Parental Involvement. During a presentation, Heineman said that the honor is given to schools in conjunction with the Nebraska Association of School Boards. The award honors Cozad for orientations, forums and other programs which involve parents in their youth's education. "When you have good parental involvement with good teaching, you have good learning and Cozad has that," noted Heineman.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

National win earns school big prizes

BROKEN BOW—It was party time in Burwell recently as community members, students and parents joined in a congratulatory celebration for the school's sixth grade class. Members of the class were notified that they were the winners of a national competition and won \$30,000 in classroom technology and a \$1,000 cake party after entering a music video contest sponsored by eInstruction, a worldwide company which offers instructors a family of technological software. The winning video the class submitted was a parody of the 80's Billy Joel hit, "It's Still Rock & Roll to Me," and changed the lyrics and title to "It's All Technology."—reported in the Custer County Chief.

'Fairly successful' annual bird count

OGALLALA—Frozen waters, wind and cold temperatures were all contributing factors in the third-lowest recorded count during the annual Lake McConaughy Bird Count in Keith County. Despite the unpleasant conditions, local organizer Bill Huntley of Ogallala deemed the 19th annual event as “fairly successful,” with 8,547 individual birds recorded, and only 78 species. Traditionally, the annual count produces species numbers in the high 90’s.—reported in the Keith County News.

Online gallery helps to identify local birds

CURTIS—One of the frustrations of bird watching is knowing what to look for, and now a new feature on ChickenDanceTrail.com is a photo gallery of birds visiting the area in each season, and accompanied by helpful captions to locate or identify a particular species. Called “What to look for on the Chicken Dance Trail,” the new feature is the work of naturalist and photographer Don Brockmeier of Eustis. The bird photo gallery will change as the seasons change and different birds come to the region.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Combined classroom transition is smooth

ARNOLD—For the first time in the school’s history, Arnold has been transitioning to a combined classroom of fifth and sixth grade students. The decision was made after budget woes forced the school board to make cuts. Mrs. Melva Geiser instructs the combined classroom and has noticed a benefit to both grades as the fifth graders receive a preview of what’s to come, and the sixth graders receive constant reviewing of lessons and topics.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Art of quilting and local heritage part of Q-125

CALLAWAY—Callaway's 125th birthday celebration kicks it up a notch with a quilt show at Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library beginning Feb. 6. Dozens of handmade quilts dating from around 1960 and earlier will be on display showing the artistic heritage of the area. The event will also feature examples of antique quilting equipment and accoutrements associated with the art. Nebraska Humanities council speaker Joanie York will be presenting a program about quilts at the Callaway Senior Center.—reported in the Callaway Courier.