



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

### Lexington hospital plans major expansion

**COZAD**—Expansion to the west for a new outpatient service center is in Lexington Regional Health Center’s plans for 2013. Construction on the new outpatient center will begin in the spring of 2013 with an estimated completion date to be spring of 2014. The expansion will include building new space to the west of the hospital that will accommodate existing specialists and allow for future expansion of specialty services as well as new surgery rooms and pre- and post-operative rooms. A top-ranked architectural firm, HDR of Omaha, is in charge of the expansion. HDR uses a concept called evidence-based design, a methodology applied in their Mayo Clinic addition that strives to improve quality patient outcomes by designing rooms that bring providers, patients and families together to promote health and healing.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

### Largest elevator in Custer County opens

**BROKEN BOW**—The largest elevator in Custer County, the Anderson’s, Inc., officially opened their newly constructed 3.8 million bushel elevator on Aug. 27, celebrating the event with a formal ribbon-cutting, speeches and a dinner. The elevator has both train and truck loading capabilities to serve the local agricultural community. The Andersons have been in business over 44 years opening their second high-speed train loading facility in Champaign, IL, and this is the first elevator the Andersons have constructed in Nebraska, located on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

### Local volunteer leads parade at State Fair

**OGALLALA**—Local Keith County resident, Dayton Ballentine, was one of 11 grand marshals selected for this year's Nebraska State Fair parade. Ballentine was selected for his service to the Keith County Fair, a commitment that dates back more than 35 years. He has also been a loyal supporter of 4-H and the fair, which he still helps with. Ballentine was to lead the Sept. 1 parade and be honored with a reception in the Nebraska State Fair Board Hospitality Loft.—reported in the Keith County News.

### Fire department to benefit from Poker Run

**CURTIS**—Fueled tanks and helmets brought 16 riders out to take part in the Curtis Poker Run this year. The fun and games included funds raised in the amount of \$2,500. The funds raised will make it possible for the Curtis Fire Department to replace the water tank on their grass rig. The ride started in Curtis and continued on a journey to Holbrook, KS, Hojo's Hideaway, then off to Norton, KS and Atwood, KS. The home stretch included McCook's Loop Brewery, and a dinner was served by the Curtis Rotary Club followed by a dance.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

### Communities rewarded by meeting challenge

**ARNOLD**—The communities of Arnold and Callaway came together recently to receive two rather large checks from the Hunt Family and Great Plains Communications. Beginning on July 1, 2011, each community was issued a joint challenge grant by the Hunt Family and Great Plains Communications to raise \$75,000 for their individual community foundation fund. The prize for reaching their goal was \$25,000 each. If one community had failed, neither would be awarded a check, but both exceeded the deadline. The joint challenge was issued to encourage the communities to begin to think regionally and to kick start their unrestricted endowment building efforts.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

### 24-hour effort helps save nursing home

**CALLAWAY**—In what could be the most amazing feat in the community's history—nothing short of a miracle—close to \$250,000 had been raised in less than 24 hours to help save Callaway's nursing home. Callaway Good Life Center Board of Directors signed the donation agreement at a recent meeting giving it the nursing home in two months and sent it off to Good

## Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times

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Samaritan Society (GSS), after a huge outpouring of community support in cash and pledges to raise the money. The GSS had set a deadline for Aug. 24, notifying the Callaway board, just seven days prior, that the society had “hit a brick wall” and would not be able to continue, which left 15 residents and 36 employees with uncertain futures. Calling a town meeting, members of the public responded in a generous 24-hour fundraiser for two months operating costs of the nursing home.—reported in the Callaway Courier.