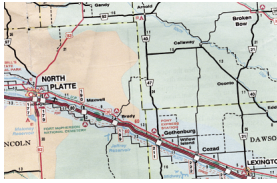


Area News Digest

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

School recognized for parent involvement

COZAD—The Cozad Public Schools were awarded \$1,000 for parent involvement in school programs. Attention was focused upon the recognition through Governor Dave Heineman's Education Initiative Awards Program. Cozad was honored among school districts in Nebraska with 500-999 students. Cozad was saluted for focus group programs during the lunch hour periods covering topics from academic achievements to after school programs where parents are involved.—taken from the Tri-City Trib.

Gathering of the Greens celebrates 10 years

BROKEN BOW—This marks the 10th year of a project that has become a holiday tradition for some area women. The Gathering of the Greens takes place each year at the 4-H Camp at the Halsey National Forest. The event was started by Sue Pearman with the help of then local florist, Denise Anderson, now organized with Pearman and Bethany Johnson, extension educator. The U.S. Forest Service gives the women permission to gather items in the forest for use in making wreaths and centerpieces with the only stipulation as items made cannot be sold.—taken from the Custer County Chief.

Ogallala burglary nets thief \$60,000 in jewelry

OGALLALA—An estimated \$60,000 in jewelry was stolen during an early morning burglary Sunday, Dec. 6, at Reichert's Jewelry at Ogallala. According to Ogallala Police Department officials, an automatic alarm signaled a burglary in progress at 3:47 a.m. in the jewelry store located on Spruce Street. The thief or thieves entered by breaking the glass of the store's front

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door. After officers arrived on the scene and covered both the front and back entrances, they found the burglar to already be gone. Several glass display cases were smashed where the jewelry was taken. The investigation is ongoing and police officials have no current suspects but are retrieving security cameras from the area.—taken from the Keith County News.

NCTA adjusting to state budget cuts

CURTIS—The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) of Curtis is going through a few changes. Rick Mestas has been hired as the new associate dean, filling the position vacated by Kevin Mills earlier this year. Also, the anticipated \$334 million shortfall in state revenue during the 2009-2011 biennium where Gov. Heineman called for a special legislative session to adjust the existing budget, will impact NCTA as well as the surrounding areas.—taken from the Frontier County Enterprise.

Hypnotist featured at Arnold's New Year's Eve

ARNOLD—Professional Hypnotist Tim Heuertz is slated to ring in the new year in Arnold with a memorable and interactive stage show sure to entertain and amaze. The Dec. 31 celebration will begin at 6 p.m. at the Arnold Community Center with a cocktail hour followed by a catered dinner and hypnosis show. A dance will follow to complete the evening. Heuertz is a certified hypnotherapist with the National Guild of Hypnotists. Advanced tickets are required to attend the entire event and are available at local businesses in Arnold.—taken from the Arnold Sentinel.

A joyful noise heard at 119-year-old church

CALLAWAY—As part of Callaway's Q-125 celebration, the 119-year-old Callaway Episcopal Church was recently opened for Christmas carolers to step back in time. Around 25 Christmas carolers gathered at the church to sing under the direction of Suzanne Wendorff. The building is slowly being restored as funds become available. Hopes are to soon return its bell to the place at the top. The bell is a cousin of the Liberty Bell, according to church history. It was cast by John Taylor and Company of Laughborough, England, who cast the bell when the little congregation paid the money to ship it.—taken from the Callaway Courier.

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