

## Area News Digest

Written by Gothenburg Times

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**Taken from news columns in area newspapers.**

### **Grand Generation fund drive successful**

COZAD—A \$20,000 fund-raising campaign for the Cozad Grand Generation Center has been successful, and is nearing completion. Drive chairman Roger Boerkircher said contributions had been substantial and more are expected before the drive officially ends. The center had faced a recent funding shortage due to maintenance costs, past-due employee tax expenses and some building maintenance costs. Contributions will continue to be accepted at the center.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

### **Bow coach receives Berens coaching award**

BROKEN BOW—Broken Bow head football coach Mike Garner has been recognized by Huskerland Preps as the Class C-1 Mike Berens Coaching Award recipient. This is the second year the award has been presented and honors one coach in each class for an outstanding season's work. This season Garner led the Broken Bow Indians to the Class C-1 semifinals and finished their season with an 11-1 record.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

### **Keith County is targeted for the 2010 Census**

OGALLALA—With the 2010 Census on the horizon, Keith County has been targeted for a more complete count because of the low-response rate from residents during the 2000 Census, according to Vic Gentry, local Census office manager for the U.S. Census Bureau. Gentry, who will be headquartered at North Platte, has made it a point to improve the count in Keith County, which finished with a 57-percent response rate during the 2000 Census. For each person not counted, the state loses \$1,114 in revenue.—reported in the Keith County News.

### **Whooping Cough found in southwest Nebraska**

CURTIS—Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department has recently investigated a case of whooping cough. It is important to know the signs and symptoms and to get appropriate treatment. Whooping cough can make a person cough for several minutes at a time with a “whooping” sound when breathing in. Stopping breathing is one of the dangers associated with the germ, which is highly contagious and can last on-and-off for up to three months. Department officials urge awareness, vaccinations and medical attention.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

### **Rose Parade float to honor Arnold man**

ARNOLD—An Arnold family’s story is to come alive in a Floragraph as one of 77 organ donors who will be featured on the “New Life Rises” float design at the 121st annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA, on New Years’ Day, 2010. Thomas “Moose,” son of Tiff and Barb Varney was just 21-years old when his life was tragically lost, but he had given the gift of life to others through his decision of organ donation. His picture will be made into a floragraph and displayed on a float. A floragraph is an artistic, life-like portrait created with organic materials including flowers that are pureed in blenders then used to “paint” the portrait.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

### **Bears and Cardinals become the Bobcats**

CALLAWAY—It’s official. The Bears and Cardinals are evolving into a new hybrid species called “Bobcat.” The South Loup Bobcats (SLB) to be more specific. The Callaway/Arnold sports coop board comprising of activities directors, administrators and school board members made the final decision on the Callaway/Arnold mascot and colors at a recent meeting. The Bobcat colors will be royal blue, black and silver. Now that the decision has been made of the new mascot and color scheme, the search is now on for a suitable image for an illustration to best suit the new coop team.—reported in the Callaway Courier.