

AREA NEWS DIGEST

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

Cozad's Hosick receives three awards

COZAD—Kathy Hosick, Cozad Pizza Hut manager, attended the annual franchise meeting on Feb. 9-12 at Grand Island where she was the recipient of three awards at the awards banquet. She received a plaque and special recognition for her 25 years of service, the Operation Excellence award, honoring locations who have received high scores during bi-annual corporate inspections, and also received CHAMPS recognition which involves customers calling in and reporting to corporate on the cleanliness, hospitality, accuracy, etc. of their restaurant experience.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

70-year-old cowgirl still rides with the best

BROKEN BOW—An Arcadia cowgirl June Holeman was the belle of the ball at the AT&T Stadium recently earning the right to run for the money. At 70 years old, Holeman received a standing ovation at the RFD American Rodeo and proved she could ride with the best barrel racers placing sixth. With a 14.285 ride, she was less than 1/100th of a second out of fourth place and a spot in the Shoot Out in barrel racing. She didn't go home empty handed, as Polaris, sponsor of the American Rodeo, announced it would present her "A true American cowgirl" with one of their vehicles. The 70-year-old responded, "I don't know what all this excitement is about, I didn't win the money."—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Moisture totaled more than twice average

OGALLALA—While Kingsley Dam officials recorded more than 10 inches of snow during February, which more than doubled the 30-year expected average for precipitation, it was the cold that residents will most remember from the past month. On 16 of 28 days in February, the nighttime low was in the single digits or below zero. The lowest low was minus 13 degrees on Feb. 5. Snow also was a major factor during the past month for the area with 11 days of measurable precipitation with Kingsley Dam officials measuring 1.11 inches of moisture, .62 of an inch more than the 30-year expected average.—reported in the Keith County News.

Curtis/Maywood EMTs honored for service

CURTIS—Members of the Frontier County EMTs of Curtis and Maywood were recently honored at a supper meeting. Board members presented each EMT with a small token for their dedication for service they provide to the community. George Wetzal, the founding father of the squad, was presented with a pocket watch for his endless commitment to the ambulance service. The squad was also able to purchase some new equipment with funds from donations and memorial monies including a new defibrillator.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Groundwater levels fall; long-term trend up

ARNOLD—As was the case in most of the state, groundwater levels in the Lower Loup Natural Resources District (LLNRD) have fallen following the record drought of 2013. In the LLNRD, levels dropped an average of 2.58 feet. In Custer County, that average decline was slightly less, at 2.3 feet. According to NRD general manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos, data comes from annual monitoring of groundwater levels, and the decline in 2013 is notable when looked at in a narrow one-year view. However, when data accumulated over four decades is reviewed, the 2013 decline is just one of many peaks and valleys of the levels in the basin.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Speech team third at LVC with accolades

CALLAWAY—Members of the Callaway speech team traveled to Loup County Schools recently for the Loup Valley Conference Speech Tournament. Eleven conference schools competed in the annual event with the Callaway team taking third place honors with a total of 73 points. First place honors went to Ansley with 85 points and Anselmo-Merna as runner-up with 77 points. The Callaway speakers brought home numerous medals from various events and several students received superior ratings.—reported in the Callaway Courier.