

## Swede, Haymaker choirs come together

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
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The Swede loss to Cozad on the gridiron Friday was long forgotten Sunday night when the Gothenburg and Cozad high school choirs combined for a concert.

With a giant American flag as a backdrop, volunteers from both choirs sang at the Cozad Railroad Hall of Fame banquet at Cozad High School as part of a National Smithsonian Journey exhibit at the 100th Meridian Museum.

The banquet was part of a 150th anniversary of the building the railroad up to the 100th meridian.

GHS choir director Ernie Blecha said Dawson County high school choirs were invited to participate.

Blecha said 32 local student volunteered to sing.

“I was more than impressed by the amount of students willing to give up their time to travel to Cozad to sing,” he said. “With their busy schedules, I’m sure most of them could have found other things to do with their time, but they thought it would be a great opportunity to make some music with a neighboring town!”

The choirs sang two selections about trains—“Travelin’ Train” and “Choo Choo Ch’ Boogie.”

Students also performed “Song for the Unsung Hero” and a “Tribute to the Armed Services.”

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Blecha said the two choruses rehearsed the songs apart during school time and came together for about 45 minutes before the banquet.

The GHS will perform for the public during the annual Veteran's Day Banquet at the Senior Center on Nov. 11.

"After visiting with the choir about this, there was not a single hand that did not go up to offer to sing on a Sunday night again for the veterans," he said. "I really thought this was a fabulous testament to the students we have in this school. I think they realize what the vets have done for us, and it's a simple thing to show them a little respect and honor in singing for them on that night."

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