



## January 2010

- Feature Business:  
Skyview Transportation and Farms
- Nebraska Workforce Development Meeting
- Cozad Chamber Banquet Speaker
- ABLE Update
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- Lexington DTR Project Continues
- Resume Writing Workshop
- Dawson County Transition Night
- Department of Labor Luncheon
- 2010 Dawson County Career Fair/Expo

## Gothenburg Business Thrives: SKYVIEW Transportation, Inc. and SKYVIEW Farms, Inc.

SKYVIEW Transportation, Inc. is a transportation broker that provides top quality transportation service throughout the Continental United States and Canada. The company is headquartered in Gothenburg on Highway 30. SKYVIEW has both dry bulk "hopper" and refrigerated trailers.

SKYVIEW Farms, Inc. is also headquartered at the offices along Highway 30. SKYVIEW Farms manages trucks and holds authority for their drivers in 48 states and Canada. SKYVIEW Farms currently works with seventy to eighty owner operators and has a goal to grow that number to 100 by 2013.

The trucking company was started in 1975 by the Rickertsen family. In 2004, the company grew out of their small office on 10th Street to the current offices on east Highway 30. They are currently remodeling their offices and plan to host an open house for the community when the remodel is complete.

Dispatching and brokering is a skilled trade, which can take up to six months to become fully trained. SKYVIEW Transportation is one of a few companies in the state of Nebraska approved for the OTJ Apprenticeship program through the Nebraska Department of Education.

According to Koby Rickertsen, Vice President of Operations, SKYVIEW Farms and SKYVIEW Transportation continue to see growth, even during the national economic downturn. The company provides a family oriented work environment and above average wages. Currently there are twenty-one individuals on staff and they are currently expanding. SKYVIEW Transportation anticipates they will continue to grow their staff in the next twelve months.

## WANTED: Dawson County Alumni Lists

Years: 1995-2003

Please email lists to:  
[mgdad@cozadtel.net](mailto:mgdad@cozadtel.net)



SKYVIEW Farms, Inc. is always interested in quality drivers!

<http://www.skyviewfarms.net/>

Our Refrigerated Division specializes in transporting freight from the Midwest US to the Northeast US and all of Canada.

## Nebraska Workforce Development Informational Meeting

The announcement of the closing of the Tenneco facility in Cozad will leave 500 skilled workers without employment. Dawson Area Development's goal is to retain these families in this area while at the same time ensuring that our existing businesses have access to a trained and dedicated labor force.

The employees at Tenneco are eligible for multiple benefits through Nebraska Workforce Development. These benefits are designed to aid these employees to gain reemployment and improve their existing skill sets. If you are an employer that will be in need of skilled labor over the next twelve to eighteen months, this should be of great interest to you as you plan for the future.

Representatives from Nebraska Workforce Development will be in Cozad at Chipper Hall on Thursday, January 28th over the noon hour to give an overview of:

- On-the-Job Trainings for new employees
- Customized Training opportunities for your employee base
- Tax Credit opportunities as an employer
- Employer Services and Business Service opportunities that are available to employers



Dawson Area Development will provide lunch for all that attend. Please RSVP to DAD by January 25th if you wish to learn more about the available programs.

Please call me at 308-784-3902 or email [jwdad@cozadtel.net](mailto:jwdad@cozadtel.net) if you have any questions.

## Sam Adams to Speak at 2010 Cozad Chamber Banquet

Published in the Tri-City Tribune, Thursday, December 17, 2009

Sam Adams, a Denver, Colorado, based standup comedian, will be the keynote speaker for the annual Cozad Chamber of Commerce Banquet Saturday, January 30th.

A winner at the 2009 Great American Comedy Festival, Adams has appeared as a master of ceremonies at comedy clubs and corporate events across the country.

He has shared stages as a leadoff and featured act for touring headline comedians and national recording artists, including comedians Frank Caliendo, Daniel Tosh, Steve McGrew and Mike Epps.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Adams is a former paperboy, musician, security guard and reporter who jumped to standup comedy in 2002. During the summer of 2003, he entered a contest at Denver's famed Comedy Works and received a favorable review from the Denver Business Journal for bringing down the house with a string of well-delivered lines that were notable for their lack of profanity, scatological or sexual references.

He has more than 20 years of experience as a working journalist with national appearances on ESPN, Fox Sports Net and the NFL Network. In 2002 he received the Print Journalist-Of-The-Year Award from the Colorado Association of Black Journalists. He has covered numerous high-profile championship sporting events, including summer and winter Olympics, the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four, the World Series, the Stanley Cup Finals and four Super Bowls. The Chamber Banquet will also highlight the formal announcement of new board of director members and presentation of the 'Community Service' awards.



## ABLE Update

The year 2010 came quickly and it seems to be slipping away even faster. January is almost gone and I can't help but get excited for what's to come in this New Year. I have been busy with numerous projects; creating a relocation package for out-of-state alumni, designing a variety of flyers for various events, getting a head start on organizing the 2010 Dawson County Career Fair/Expo, assisting with employment opportunities for Tenneco employs, and much more.

Earlier this month, David Haynes invited me to come and tour the Baldwin plant in Gothenburg. I gladly accepted his invitation and was not at all disappointed. I found the entire filter making process very interesting (what farm girl wouldn't) and can't wait to visit again. Thanks so much for a wonderful tour David!

The rest of my January appears to be exceptionally busy with a trip to Norfolk for the 21st Century Teaching and Learning Summit, an ABLE board meeting, a trip to Grand Island to exchange ideas with Columbus' "ABLE coordinator," presenting a booth at the Dawson County Transition Night in Lexington, a Department of Labor luncheon with area businesses, and the Cozad Chamber Banquet. Whew!

I hope to get individual meetings scheduled with area counselors and/or superintendents soon, as well as introduce the ABLE program and Dawson Area Development to all fifth graders with a class presentation and a slogan contest. Also, a Tenneco employee job fair is in the works and official dates will soon be set.

I have quickly settled into my role here at DAD and I am thoroughly enjoying it. If anyone has any projects that they would like the ABLE program to tackle, please do not hesitate to call or email me your suggestions.

I look forward to sharing success with all of you in 2010.

**Mary Gohl, ABLE Coordinator**  
308-784-3902  
mgdad@cozadtel.net

## HHS Update

**Department of Health and Human Services Update**  
The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced an Intent to Contract with the City of Lexington on December 3, 2009. Lexington was selected for a 50 person Customer Service Center which will be housed in the Dawson County Opportunity Center at 1501 South Plum Creek Parkway.

DHHS has determined the order of the opening of the sites selected will be as follows in order from first to last: Lincoln, Fremont, Lexington and Scottsbluff.

The working timeline for bringing up the Customer Service Center in Lexington is for staff to move in by September 1, 2011 with full implementation set for November 1, 2011.

We look forward to working with the Department of Health and Human Services on this project.

## Lexington DTR Update

The first meeting of the newly formed Downtown Revitalization committee has been held. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Lexington City Council. Phase I of this project is to produce a plan for use in redevelopment and rehabilitation purposes in Lexington's downtown. Proposals to design a plan for the revitalization of Lexington's downtown area will be received by January 19th and after that the City Council will receive a recommendation from the advisory committee as to which firm promises to produce a plan to help achieve this goal. The professional planning firm formulating a plan will most likely ask for several focus groups to obtain public input. This will be a chance to receive thoughts and opinions from representatives of various sectors of Lexington residents to help with downtown revitalization.



**FREE**

**Resume Writing**

and

**Job Searching**

**Workshop**

***REVAMP YOUR RESUME~JOB SEARCHING TIPS***

***When: Monday, January 11th @ 4:00 p.m.***

***Monday January 18th @ 4:00 p.m.***

***Monday January 25th @ 4:00 p.m.***

***Where: Cozad High School, Room 123  
1710 Meridian Ave.***

***Please call Alissa to register: (308) 865-5675***

***\*\*seating is limited***

# Chart your Course for College Success

## Attention: Students and Parents

**January 25, 2010 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Holiday Inn Express**  
Lexington, Nebraska

Are you a high school student or do you have a student in your family who is getting ready to leave high school and embark on that next step of entering post-secondary education or some type of additional training beyond high school? Do you think you might need academic support or accommodations, but you aren't sure what is available or how to access the services? Are you concerned about the cost of continuing your education?

Come to this informative night and hear a presentation by David Brandt of **WIN-AHEAD**, an organization representing post-secondary schools in Nebraska. Mr. Brandt will explain the types of services available for students with disabilities at each of their schools, who is eligible to receive services, and the procedure to receive services.

Treve Florum from **Education Quest** will provide financial/scholarship information and advice about when and how to complete FAFSA paperwork.

**Recent Graduates who are currently in post-secondary settings** will give firsthand accounts of their experiences.

Information display tables and representatives from the following post-school sites or support agencies/services will be available throughout the evening: **University of Nebraska-Kearney, Central Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, Northeast Community College, Nebr. College of Tech. Agriculture, Joseph's School of Beauty, Assistive Technology Partnership, Southeast Community College, Vocational Rehabilitation, and ESU 10 Transition Specialist.**

A light meal will be served and booth/door prizes will be given. Child-care will be provided. Translation services provided.

*Parents and students are urged to attend this informational session.*

**Please make reservations by January 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Lexington area may RSVP to Becky Archer: (308) 324-4691 or [becky.archer@esu10.org](mailto:becky.archer@esu10.org)  
Cozad area may RSVP to Karen Klein: (308) 784-2744 or [kklein@cozad.k12.ne.us](mailto:kklein@cozad.k12.ne.us)  
Gothenburg area may RSVP to Judy Jensen: (308) 537-3651 or [jujensen@esu10.org](mailto:jujensen@esu10.org)

# ***Attention Local Employers***

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## ***Please Join Us for an Informational Luncheon***

***Learn about employer  
opportunities available through  
Nebraska Department of Labor:***

- On-the-job trainings for new employees
  - Customized training opportunities  
for your employee base
- Tax Credit opportunities as an employer
- Employer Services and Business Service  
opportunities that are available to employers

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**When:** Thursday, January 28th at 12:00 noon

**Where:** Chipper Hall, Cozad

**Lunch will be provided.**

**Please RSVP to Dawson Area Development by Monday, January 25th**

**Phone:** (308) 784-3902

**Email:** [jwdad@cozadtel.net](mailto:jwdad@cozadtel.net)

# Dawson County Career Fair

- Universities
- Entrepreneurs
- Community Colleges
- Business Managers
- Tech/Trade Schools
- Human Resource Managers
- Community Leaders
- Job Seekers
- Parents
- Students
- Professionals



**When:** Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:30am-1:00pm

**Where:** Dawson County Fairgrounds-Lexington, NE  
--refreshments and lunch will be provided

Dawson Area Development and the ABLE Program invite you to participate in the Annual Career Fair/Expo for high school students from Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, Elwood, SEM, Eustis-Farnam, Overton, and other area schools. We hope to introduce a variety of careers to the students by allowing them to participate in HANDS-ON activities such as, exploration of equipment, operating computers, and interviewing area employees and employers. Exhibitors are asked to explain skills, training (high school and beyond), wage range, and job satisfaction in their chosen careers. This is an opportunity for area businesses to promote your programs, visit with students about your business and career opportunities, and share about your career responsibilities with the students.

Please contact Mary Gohl at 308.784.3902 or [mgdad@cozadtel.net](mailto:mgdad@cozadtel.net) for details. We look forward to developing a great event for our area students and businesses.