

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

New memorial park being built in Cozad

COZAD—Spades of dirt were turned by students at the Cozad Early Education Center (CEEC) recently for Ethan's Park. The facility is being built in memory of Ethan Bazata, son of Brian and Heidi Bazata, who passed away after sustaining injuries in an accident in 2009. The park will be constructed just west of the CEEC and will contain a large amount of playground equipment and an outdoor education center as well. A dedication ceremony is scheduled to take place on July 31 with entertainment and a community barbecue.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Swimming pool bond OK'd by narrow margin

BROKEN BOW—In one of the closest elections in recent memory of Custer County voters, the Broken Bow Swimming Pool bond issue had passed. With all precincts counted the votes showed 508 for said bond and tax, 504 against. The bond request calls for the city to borrow money and pledge property in the principal amount of \$3,250,000 for the purpose of constructing a new swimming pool for the city of Broken Bow. The final numbers stand and the narrow margin will not be recounted as board members move forward.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Ogallala is crushing cars and more

OGALLALA—Aside from its recently completed new building, US Recycling at Ogallala is utilizing daily its second-largest investment, a logger/bailer. The 93,000-pound machine, affixed to its own trailer for portability to alternate sides, can crush a car into a 2.5-by-3-by 8-foot package, about the size of a kitchen table. The three-year-old machine cost \$300,000 and was funded in part with grants obtained. In addition to crushing and compacting cars, the logger/bailer also can be used to compress appliances, sheet metal and steel by utilizing 2,500 pounds of pressure per square inch.—reported in the Keith County News.

Marker in City Park to honor veterans

CURTIS—On May 14, in conjunction with Armed Forces Day on May 15, members of the American Legion Post 95 erected a memorial stone marker at the Curtis City Park. The memorial, which depicts an eagle with the American flag, will be where ashes of retired flags will be spread at the base of the marker. The ashes honor all veterans of the United States Armed Forces and those who love and honor our flag.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

New cell tower to increase coverage

ARNOLD—U.S. Cellular recently completed construction of a 300-foot cell tower two miles north of Arnold. The site is expected to increase coverage and network capacity in Arnold and the surrounding area. U.S. Cellular has a team of network engineers who drive all over the coverage area to test signal strength and call quality as well as listening to customer feedback to determine the best locations for new cell sites.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Bears and Tigers pass into history

CALLAWAY—Callaway High School's Class of 2010 holds the distinction of being the last class to graduate as "Bears" which now passes into history with the merging of school activities. Sixteen seniors graduated at CHS gym, 11 with honors. Colton Schied was named its valedictorian and Autumn Baker its salutatorian, both addressed to the assembled class as the last Bears. Oconto Public School is also celebrating their last day as Tigers as the school will close after 101 years to save money in District 180.—reported in the Callaway Courier.