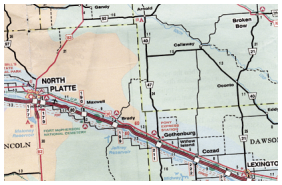

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

11th hour move okays Cozad fireworks sales

COZAD—Contrary to earlier indications, the Cozad City Council pulled a surprise 11th hour move and OK'd an amended ordinance which will permit the sale of fireworks during the year-end period. Only one opposing vote was cast on the issue for the third and final reading at a meeting of Cozad's City Council members. Council had also received a petition containing about 100 signatures in favor of the issue. The endorsement will now allow the sale of fireworks beginning Dec. 29 until Jan. 1.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Guard appreciation hunt honors service

BROKEN BOW—This year marked the third annual National Guard Appreciation Deer Hunt, founded and organized by Mike Christen, a 34-year guardsman. The hunt included a junior and senior group and added a new female group of disabled veterans, purple heart recipients, deployed guards and more. The hunters were able to select their season of choice including bow hunting, black powder or rifle for a three-night, four day hunt collaborated between many local businesses who donated lodging, food, entertainment, fuel and more.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Keno funds help with community projects

OGALLALA—Ogallala had voted to allow businesses to offer Keno, a lottery game in August of 1991, the city then signed an inter-local agreement with Keith County in January of 1992, establishing the system that is still in place today. Since its inception, Keno funds have helped the city with community betterment projects tied to enhancing educational advancement,

maintenance of public structures and providing tax relief and recreational development. Although the funds are different each month, budgeting can be possible by studying trends.—reported in the Keith County News.

Curtis man helps FBI nab military imposter

CURTIS—A Curtis man, Leroy Bierfreund, who works for the US Army in La Crosse, WI, was instrumental in helping the FBI catch a man who has been allegedly impersonating a soldier for years. A 26-year-old man of Salem, WI, had been charged in federal court with impersonating a soldier where he allegedly dressed in a US Army uniform during the Oktoberfest Maple Leaf Parade in September which was adorned with rank insignia of Major and badges awarded to members of the armed forces. His actions during the event were unbecoming of an officer leading the real soldiers to suspect.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Reed's Food Center receives REAP Award

ARNOLD—Reed's Food Center of Arnold is the newest recipient of the USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Awards, funds awarded to rural companies to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The local store owner John Reed plans to begin an upgrade to energy efficient cases starting in February to be followed by a remodel and re-set of the entire store.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Local youth places at miniature bull riding

CALLAWAY—Callaway sixth-grader Dillon Micheel recently won sixth place in a fast-growing sport among young riders, miniature bull riding. Micheel placed among 60+ riders at the Miniature Bucking Bull World Finals scoring 70 points on his first ride and a 69.5 on his second with his third ride being just a second short of scoring. The bulls are no taller than 46-inches and cannot exceed a weight of 800 pounds but are just as feisty as their larger cousins for the competing cowboys of ages 12-14.—reported in the Callaway Courier.