

Taken from news columns from area newspapers.

New manufacturing firm to open in Cozad

COZAD—Industrial Skins, a ceiling tile manufacturing firm, has announced plans to open a plant in Cozad. The announcement was made during a recent chamber reception. Plans indicate that the company will employ about 20 people within the first year of operation and hope to have a workforce of about 40 in two years. The firm will be located in the former Evans Frozen Foods and Tabora Bakery building in the Cozad industrial region in the southwest section of the city.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Multiple fires call multiple departments

BROKEN BOW—A recent control burn five miles east of Arnold on State Highway 92, and a second 15 miles northwest of Callaway fell victim to the wind, with fire departments from Arnold, Broken Bow, Callaway, Oconto, Stapleton, Anselmo, Merna and planes from Broken Bow and Stapleton called into action. Emergency crews spent an estimated 12 hours on the job bringing the fires under control. An estimated 640 acres were burned near Arnold, and another 1,000 northwest of Callaway. Heavy terrain, deep canyons and high winds had all contributed to the dangerous situation.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Rare visitors turned heads at Ogallala

OGALLALA—Local resident, Raul Gomez, recently had a friend visiting that turned heads and lifted spirits in the area. His friend, Louie Delmoral, had brought with him two Asian elephants. The sight was something to see as the elephants grazed adjacent to pens of horses and ponies. Gomez and Delmoral have been good friends for a long time and used to work together as elephant trainers. Delmoral was on his way from Michigan to Washington driving a semi-truck containing the elephants and took the opportunity to stop and visit his friend. The visit also gave others in the area a rare opportunity to observe and learn about the elephants.—reported in the Keith County News.

Q125 kicks off with time capsule opening

CURTIS—Kick-off for the Eustis Q125 celebration got off to a great start on April 9 with a time capsule that was buried during the 1986 Centennial dug up and opened. The contents were in good condition and are to be displayed during this 125th year. Following the time capsule, a trail ride with about 130 riders rode west to Kingston, then south to the silica mine. Riders continued through the afternoon across the canyon roads and concluded at the Eustis arena where high school students performed a musical.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

New Gator for Arnold from SORC donation

ARNOLD—The Arnold Fire and Rescue Department received a new John Deere Gator ATV on April 8 at the Arnold Fire Hall. The fully equipped Gator is planned to be used for fighting grass fires and to provide ambulance services in difficult terrain. The cost of the Gator, over \$21,500, was donated entirely from proceeds generated at the 2011 SORC Winter party auction. Since its beginning, the SORC organization has donated more than \$350,000 to local fire departments and various community projects.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Woodchucks chucking wood westward

CALLAWAY—A new critter has made its way west from the east. A Callaway resident, Lee Morrison, has a dog which recently drug a carcass into his yard which he was unsure of. Morrison threw the critter into the back of his pickup to show it around as something unusual. The critter was then identified by a Nebraska Game and Parks official as a woodchuck. Considered a rodent, the woodchuck is a member of the squirrel family and about the size of a beaver. A few sightings of these critters have occurred in recent years including at North Platte and Broken Bow. The woodchuck is usually considered a pest as it eats grasses, plants, herbs, leaves, flowers, apples, paw paws and garden crops.—reported in the Callaway Courier.