



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Riders raise awareness for children's health

COZAD—A Pony Express 900 mile, three-day motorcycle ride across the state will take place to collect and deliver hundreds of letters to the State Capital about children's mental health. The letters have been written by youth, families, professionals and others to thank supporters and raise awareness about children's mental health. The core group of motorcyclists are volunteers from the Fraternal Order of Eagles who will begin their journey at Alliance and collect letters along their route to the capital.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Mountain lion tracks confirmed at Halsey

BROKEN BOW—There have been two recent indications of mountain lions roaming with confirmed tracks discovered near the Halsey Forest campground area in the Bessey Ranger District recently. The tracks were confirmed six miles from the trailhead on the Dismal Trail, followed by a sighting near the main campground. Park officials are working closely with Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and want to alert visitors and campers that mountain lions may be sharing our public lands. Although an encounter is rare, a concern for the public's health and safety remain.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Renovations and savings move ahead for OHS

OGALLALA—After nearly five months of non-stop work, the Ogallala High School renovation project was taking shape, and the district was already reaping the benefits of increased energy efficiency. The newly installed system had a huge impact on utility bills with a savings of over \$2,700 in natural gas costs over the past four months. Use of the school's four boilers has been

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decreased, and the oldest and largest boiler had been taken out of service and removed. Renovations will be continuing when school is out with replacing mechanical equipment for heating and ventilation.—reported in the Keith County News.

More water saving management actions

CURTIS—A significant step has been taken by the Middle Republican NRD towards long term compact compliance and compliance with the standards agreed to in the Integrated Management Plan. The NRD has made an offer to Riverside Irrigation Company to purchase their surface water appropriations out of Frenchman Creek in Hitchcock County. With the purchase of those rights the board has taken an action that will put more water in the river when needed for compact compliance and free up supplies to be used by other irrigation districts when not needed.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Local instructors represent rural schools

ARNOLD—The Education Commission of the States (ECS), in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Education, hosted the first National Summit on the role of Education in Economic Development in Rural America on May 4 in Washington, D.C. The summit brought together a broad base of influential leaders and policy makers including Arnold Public School instructors Clay and Julie Mohr who were nominated to represent rural schools at the event. The Mohrs gave a presentation on APS School House Graphic Products, the student-run business at Arnold High School.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Big 10 Network added in response to UNL move

CALLAWAY—The Big 10 Network will be available in Arnold, Broken Bow, Callaway, Oconto and Stapleton on June 1, according to a release from Great Plains Communications. Airing Big 10 Conference content 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Big 10 Network shows more live sporting events including Big 10 championship games. The addition was in response to high demand created with UNL moving to their new conference. Adding the Big 10 Network was an easy decision to provide a one-stop destination for Husker information and programming, according to communication officials.—reported in the Callaway Courier.

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