

Taken from news columns of area newspapers.

'Red Ribbon Week' events planned

COZAD—SMASH (Students Making a Smart Habit) members at Cozad Middle School have organized several activities to celebrate Red Ribbon Week. SMASH will kick off Red Ribbon Week by passing out red ribbons with stickers and candy treats. Other activities will include a door decorating contest for classes with drug-free themes being utilized, dress up days, and highlighting the week will be former Nebraska football player Jason Peter who will speak to students during an assembly.—taken from the Tri-City Trib.

Plane makes emergency Highway 183 landing

BROKEN BOW—A small aircraft recently made an emergency landing near Sargent and had to land on Highway 183. According to Custer County Sheriff's Deputy Blaine Gibbens, Steve O'Berg safely landed his V35J Beechcraft Bonanza just north of Sargent on the highway while en route from Topeka, KS, to Spearfish, SD, due to engine failure. He tried to make it to Burwell for an emergency landing, but had to turn around and land on Highway 183 behind a pickup truck. There were two passengers with O'Berg and no one was injured.—taken from the Custer County Chief.

Lake Ogallala fish population eradicated

OGALLALA—The fish of Lake Ogallala faced a doomsday event on Oct. 20 when a chemical pesticide was applied to the lake's waters as part of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's effort to improve its trout fishery by eliminating undesirable fish species. It took less than an hour for fish to come bobbing to the surface. While the project's goal is to help the lake's trout, the irony is that the chemical rotenone used is lethal to all fish even the trout. Officials, who recommend not consuming any fish killed by the chemical, said they plan to restock the lake later this year when all the dead fish and chemicals have been cleaned out.—taken from the Keith County News.

Board hears compact compliance proposals

CURTIS—The Middle Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors recently heard several proposals that suggested strategies and guidelines for the management of water supplies in the Republican River Basin. The presentation drawing the most comments and questions was that of the Department of Natural Resources that outlined a strategy that included three options that would allow the state to remain in compliance with the Republican River Compact. Option one sets pumping columns low, option two curtails surface water and option three would curtail groundwater pumping.—taken from the Frontier County Enterprise.

Local rescue squads receive Air Care training

ARNOLD—An Air Care helicopter landing in a field on the west edge of Arnold drew a lot of attention recently with rescue personnel standing by on the highway with lights flashing on their emergency vehicles. Rescue personnel from nine area departments were taking part in a training hosted by Custer County Mutual Aid. Air Care flight nurses gave local fire departments information on when it is appropriate to call for air care, what information they need before arriving at the scene, and scene safety when the helicopter arrives. Arnold students and local residents were also able to participate.—taken from the Arnold Sentinel.

Q-125 kicks off with a commemorative buckle

CALLAWAY—Members of the Callaway Chamber of Commerce are mobilizing to celebrate the village's 125th birthday all through 2010, however events will begin in November. The Chamber is sponsoring a Q-125 Kickoff Soup Supper featuring entertainment and exhibits on Nov. 15 at the Callaway Community Center. To be unveiled at the event will be limited edition commemorative belt buckles that were commissioned by the Chamber with the design to be limited to 125 buckles. Commemorative crocks and birthday buttons will also be available.—taken from the Callaway Courier.