



Taken from news columns of area newspapers.

Jr. Fire Patrol offers more than instruction

COZAD—Learning the basics of what it takes to be a member of the Lexington Volunteer Rural Fire Department were over 50 local girls and boys. Over a span of five weeks the students were taught about the understanding of what fire is as well as the ABC's of Fire. Students were able to view the effects that electricity and natural gas have on fire fighting and the measures of extinguishing fires. They were also shown and demonstrated the basics of first aid. At the conclusion of the program, students were treated to a flash back in time of the historic fire line with a bucket competition.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Broken Bow healing from accident tragedy

BROKEN BOW—To help begin the healing process for students, faculty and community members, the 2012 Class of Broken Bow High School were among hundreds who gathered at the city square for a special service honoring the memories of Coach Zane Harvey and Coach Anthony Blum of Broken Bow, and Albert Sherbeck of Ansley. All three were killed in a head-on collision on Highway 2, one mile west of Ansley, the van was carrying members of the Broken Bow High School boy's basketball team. Students, along with staff, also gathered at the football field to release hundreds of balloons with writings of thoughts, messages and prayers. Red and white ribbons were also worn by those attending in support of three boys who remain hospitalized. A plaque in memory of the two coaches was on display as well.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Gallery unveils marble statues; hosts torch run

OGALLALA—Ogallala’s Petrified wood Gallery recently hosted a series of events including the unveiling of four new marble sculptures by artist Doug Bieniek. An open house included the unveiling of the four “Mystic Warriors of the Plains” statues as well as an ice cream social and the greeting of the annual Cornhusker State Games Torch Run. The gallery had obtained a statue of Dakota Sioux Chief Sitting Bull and unveiled Red Cloud, chief of Ogalala Sioux, Spotted Elk, chief of the Sioux, White Cloud, chief of a Teton branch of the Sioux nation, and Wolf Robe, chief of the Southern Cheyenne. The statues are made of a smoke-white, solid marble with life-like depictions of the chiefs.—reported in the Keith County News.

MRNRD works to stay in compact compliance

CURTIS—The Riverside Irrigation Company (RIC) has joined efforts with the Middle Republican Natural Resources District (MRNRD) to help the state stay in compliance with the three-state Republican River Compact, meet standards in MRNRD’s integrated management plan, and help protect the local economy. The MRNRD has purchased the surface water rights on 672 acres from shareholders of the RIC and landowners have begun filling irrigation canals. RIC has surrendered all their water rights to the MRNRD and turned over all interest to the NRD. The MRNRD will hold those rights and provide that water to the State of Nebraska to be used for compact compliance, and frees up 2,400 acre feet of surface water to be available to downstream users when Nebraska is in compliance with the compact and be passed on through to Harlan County Reservoir when Nebraska needs water for compact compliance.

—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Restored bell dedicated by a ringing lever

ARNOLD—A slogan used by a high school class, “With the ropes of the past we will ring the bells of the future” is a fitting slogan applied to a bell belonging to the First Baptist Church. The 1,879 pound bell was installed in the belfry of the 1921 church and served the church for many years, but once the ropes wore out, the bell no longer rung and sat silently atop the church. The bell has now been moved to the new building and its new home placed in the yard of the church as a memorial to the late Alvin and Ester Pearson, long-time members of the church. A dedication service was held May 27 with two of the Pearson descendants in attendance, where the bell was rung by a lever.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Security incident also breached at NSCS

CALLAWAY—Officials of the Nebraska State College System have been notified that their institutions' records were included in a security breach of Nebraska's Student Information System (NeSIS) late in May. The Nebraska State College System and the University of Nebraska began implementing a shared student information system in 2009. The University experienced the breach known as NeSIS, May 23, and indications the breach affected only their system. However, NSC system chancellor was notified May 30 that an ongoing investigation by a forensics firm as well as local and federal law enforcement agencies had revealed the breach also included data from the system's of three other institutions, Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State Colleges. The investigation is ongoing with a suspect identified.—reported in the Callaway Courier.