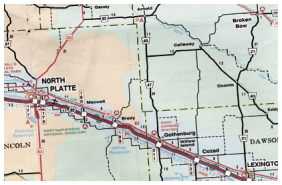

Taken from news columns of area newspapers.

Cozad native tops NU defense and earns honors

COZAD—Cozad graduate and UNL sophomore defensive tackle Jared Crick earned the Walter Camp National defensive player of the week, Big 12 defensive player of the week, and earned a helmet sticker from ESPN's College Football Final. Crick earned the conference and national accolades for his great performance against Baylor. His efforts and hard work included a stellar showing in limiting the Bears and keeping the Baylor offense out of the end zone. He set a school record for sacks in a game with five sacks, and tied the school record for tackles for loss with seven take-downs for 28-yards lost, collecting 13 total tackles and a key fourth-quarter fumble recovery.—taken from the Tri-City Trib.

Byway denied status as a national attraction

BROKEN BOW—A recent decision by the U.S. Department of Transportation left Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway (SJSB) promoters a little deflated. The secretary, Ray LaHood, announced 42 new designations to the America's Byways collection including five All-American Roads and 37 National Scenic Byways in 26 states, but SJSB was not on the list. The decision means the 272-mile Byway along Highway 2 will not get the recognition they had hoped. "We were hoping to tell the story on a larger scale, at a faster rate. Now, we'll tell our story a little at a time," said Terri Licking, SJSB president.—taken from the Custer County Chief.

Former Ogallalan recognized for CF work

OGALLALA—Leon and Lori Thomas were recently recognized for their volunteer efforts with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Leon is an Ogallala native and the president of Jelecos, a

technology consulting company at Omaha that employs 35 people. The Thomas family has a son with CF and continue on a mission to help others as well by volunteering time and effort for the CF foundation. The couple was recognized as Nebraska's Finest.—taken from the Keith County News.

Local horse earns world championship

CURTIS—Megan Welch and Hance Grunden, representing Grunden Ranch Morgans of Curtis, competed at the 2009 Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City, OK, Oct. 10-17. They showed RG Regency Chester, a 13-year-old gelding that was bred and raised on the Grunden Ranch in Curtis. They rode to the winners circle winning the National English Open Trail and National Western Open Trail classes, and went on to be pinned World Champion in Western Trail.—taken from the Frontier County Enterprise.

Halloween parade and contests draws crowd

ARNOLD—The Rialto Theatre was filled with kids dressed in all kinds of costumes for the annual Chamber-sponsored costume and pumpkin decorating contest. Prizes were given in different categories and age groups. The Chamber also sponsored a downtown Halloween parade where Arnold High School cheerleaders led a large group of children and their parents to 19 participating businesses for Halloween treats.—taken from the Arnold Sentinel.

Over-heated dryer causes grain fire

CALLAWAY—A grain dryer fire at the Jeff Witthuhn farmstead on Stop Table brought out Callaway firefighters who were called in about 11:40 p.m. on Oct. 27. Firefighter Pat Jorgenson said the over-heated dryer likely started on the outside but spread to grain inside a nearby bin. The fire was quickly extinguished but personnel remained on the scene until about 4 a.m. as corn was transferred from the bin to ensure no residual embers remained among blackened kernels.—taken from the Callaway Courier.