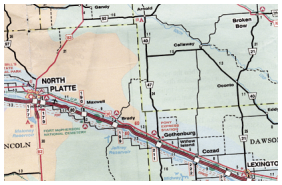

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Luminaries display continues for 32nd year

COZAD—For 32 years the families living on Gatewood, McCormick and Owens Drives in Cozad have been presenting their luminary display for the community with over 1,500 luminaries set out in the neighborhood. Lighting of the luminaries is of Spanish origin. For centuries, these little lights that burn at Christmas time, have been placed along the streets and sidewalks to light the way for the Christ Child. The public is encouraged to drive or walk through the neighborhood in Cozad and enjoy the beautiful and simplistic display.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Barn enjoys banner year with more visitors

BROKEN BOW—The Custer County Tourism Council recently completed its 2012 final report for The Red Barn travel center, technically the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Interpretive Center, with encouraging numbers. Visitors and travelers during the 183 days the barn was open totaled 4,189, up almost 10 percent from the previous year, and reported all 50 states were represented in the guest book. The banner year for the barn was mostly due to recent improvements and additions as well as a large contingency of local volunteers.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Local ranchers earn conservation award

OGALLALA—The Otter Creek Ranch, located in northwest Keith County, received the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Grassland Conservation award during a recent banquet. The Otter Creek Ranch, owned by Don and Joyce Tisdall, was named after the meandering stream that springs up in the Sandhills five miles north of Lake McConaughy. It is one of few streams in

Nebraska capable of supporting trout populations. The Tisdalls worked to put in place improvements that enhanced their ability to manage grazing on the ranch as well as improve the natural function of a rare watershed.—reported in the Keith County News.

A ceremony tribute to Pearl Harbor soldiers

CURTIS—A ceremony to honor those who served at Pearl Harbor, along with a flag ash ceremony, took place at the Curtis City Park on Dec. 7. The special event featured Tyre Nelson who recited the same speech that Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave to Congress declaring the war on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

AHS first graduating class, 100 years ago

ARNOLD—Come next May, it will have been 100 years since the first graduating class of Arnold High School received their diplomas in a graduation exercise. On that day in 1913, five students became the first AHS alumni. Next May, the Arnold High Alumni Association will celebrate the 100 years since that first graduation. At the time, the celebration was for the completion of the ninth grade, which was the only grade considered high school and was as high as the grades went. Arnold High School became a four-year high school in the year 1919.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Early CHS graduation granted to two students

CALLAWAY—A 5-0 recent vote by members of the Callaway Board of Education granted two fifth-year seniors their signed diplomas at the end of this semester ending Dec. 21. The downside to early graduation at Callaway is that it precludes the graduate from participating in the various senior activities associated with the second semester. One student had enlisted in the military and will head off to basic training as soon as he has diploma in hand, while the other is looking at college. Both have completed the necessary credits to graduate.—reported in the Callaway Courier.