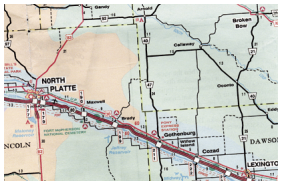

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

2013 Polar Bear Tank Race set for March 1-2

BROKEN BOW—Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway officials announced the dates of the Sixth Annual Polar Bear Tank Race. The unique fun-filled event is scheduled for March 1-2 on the Middle Loup River north of Mullen. Teams of four to eight members race down the river in stock tanks with winning teams determined by time. The event kicks off with registration and a chili cook-off, then tank teams meet for breakfast the following morning and load buses to be transported to the river where they are launched in a staggered order. A prime rib awards banquet will take place in the evening to conclude the event.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Student project leads to rededicated hall

OGALLALA—New curtains and carpeting, new lighting and sound, and 428 new seats were focal points in Ogallala High School's Lecture Hall, which, on Friday, was rededicated with a new name—The Ogallala High School Performing Arts Center. During the ceremony, members of the Ogallala High School Interact group were congratulated for leading the project to completion. The group, the high school arm of the Rotary Club, had a goal to raise $100,000 for projects, and were able to achieve their goal with bake sales, raffles, concerts, dances and a run, proving a student-led project can be achieved.—reported in the Keith County News.

A small town achieves large dreams in 2012

CURTIS—The year 2012 got off to a stellar start in Curtis with the Star Theater surpassing their goal for a new digital projection system. A lot can be said about rural America, and when a town

of a little over 7,000 people can raise $108,000 in just three months, that is a huge accomplishment. Individuals, community organizations, businesses and school students all came together to raise the funds necessary to help their town grow and advance.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Senior represents Arnold at Liberty Bowl

ARNOLD—Arnold senior Sierra Monroe and her family were traveling to Memphis, TN, over the Christmas break where she was to be honored with homecoming queens from around the country during the Dec. 31 AutoZone Liberty Bowl pre-game and half-time extravaganza. All AutoZone Liberty Bowl Queens attend several of the events that culminates with the on-field ceremony that began the kick-off. Monroe was crowned the 2012 Arnold High School homecoming queen and was invited to Memphis by selections based on her academic achievements, community activities and all-around status, making her one of the top queens in the state of Nebraska and region.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Sixth graders collect most for Food Pantry

CALLAWAY—Callaway sixth grade students were responsible for nearly half of all food or gift items collected for the Callaway Food Pantry this year, the result of a contest sponsored by Student Council president Cassidy Conroy and The Helping Tree. Jill Pitkin's sixth-grade class gathered up 151 items to win the competition among the elementary. All told, 382 items were collected by the elementary students.—reported in the Callaway Courier.