



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

CVFD makes generous donations for pediatrics

COZAD—Thanks to a donation from members of the Cozad Volunteer Fire Department, pediatric patients at the Nebraska Medical Center will have a stay that's a little more comfortable than in the past. The department donated more than \$4,000 and 14 Radio Flyer wagons to the center during a recent ceremony. The money will be used to purchase a Fun Center Mobile Entertainment Unit, a portable system that features an LCD television, a DVD player and a gaming unit. The wagons, which are able to be sterilized, offer a fun and less threatening option than a traditional wheelchair for young patients.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

NPPD hosts open house information sessions

BROKEN BOW—Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has been busy gathering information and has launched the first phase of informative open houses on its proposed 345,000-volt Transmission Line. This line, once constructed, will be approximately 220 miles long connecting the Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland to the line owned by the Western Area Power Administration of the federal government. NPPD officials want to correct a problem of electricity void areas, so when nature disrupts the power, smaller areas won't be affected. The project is referred to as "the R-Project" with anticipated benefits of enhanced operation, relieving congestion from existing lines and providing additional opportunities for development.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Optimists donate for armory grounds purchase

OGALLALA—The Ogallala Optimist Club is living up to its motto “Friend of Youth” by supplying \$10,000 to purchase the former Ogallala Armory for the Ogallala Public Schools. According to Optimist board member Bud Morrell, when members learned last spring the armory was closing and would be for sale, consensus was to see that the schools had it. The buildings and ground will be an asset to the school for vehicle parking, the gymnasium and much more. Optimist members have also committed to helping with the after-school programs.—reported in the Keith County News.

Lashley is first woman president of state LICA

CURTIS—The Nebraska Chapter of Land Improvement Contractors of America have elected the first woman president of their organization during an inauguration ceremony in Kearney on Jan. 17. Norma Lashley of Curtis was selected as the new president. Lashley is the owner and president of BSB Construction, Inc. of Curtis and has been active in the organization since the late 1980s, holding offices on both state and national levels. There are six areas representing the entire state and three at-large members.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

‘Swinging Sally’ helps reach playground goal

ARNOLD—“Swinging Sally” has been working hard to reach a \$48,000 goal for new playground equipment for the Arnold City Park, and she’s about half-way there. “Sally” was created by AEDC Director Sandy Hicks to help draw residents’ attention to the project. She is a rendering of a youthful girl with a ponytail swinging upward on a swing, reaching toward the top of a goal. Swinging Sally will also be seen on posters at events and around the town, and will continue to swing up toward the city park playground equipment project goal as funds are raised and donated.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Lock-down drill, drug search benefit schools

CALLAWAY—Reality intruded on the students and faculty at Callaway and Arnold public schools recently. Both schools ran lock-down drills and both schools hosted police officials who conducted searches for drugs using trained dogs, also known as K-9 officers. While a drug search was being conducted, students and faculty were doing a lock-down drill in the event that intruders force their way into the building. No drugs were found at either school and invaluable training with lessons learned resulted from the lock-down scenario.—reported in the Callaway Courier.