Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Lex Schools pledge more money with YMCA

COZAD—Lexington Public School officials are pledging more money towards the joint use construction project at Lexington Middle School. Portions of the new addition will be shared with YMCA. In a five to one vote, board members authorized committing an additional $1.25 million to the project, making the district's contribution $7.75 million, while YMCA organizers have pledged $4.8 million. Among plans for the facility, there are to be three cross-courts in the new gym which can be used as large open spaces or divided as needed. Two of the gyms are designated for use by the school and one for the YMCA. A second floor walking track will circle the gym and an upstairs cardio and weight room is also planned.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Beauty effort wins national award

BROKEN BOW—Local Keep America Beautiful affiliate, Keep Loup Basin Beautiful, was presented the National Keep America Beautiful (KAB) 2012 Great American Cleanup (GAC) Best Activation award at a conference in Washington, D.C. Keep Loup Basin Beautiful received the award for their outstanding participation in the KAB GAC project in 2012. The project encourages volunteer groups to improve their community environment by litter cleanup, recycling, plantings, garden renewals, fix-up projects, cleaning/painting public spaces and environmental education.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Asphalt plant requests to locate at Roscoe

OGALLALA—A Keith County Planning Commission public hearing on a proposed asphalt plant to be located at a gravel pit site on the southwest quadrant of Interstate 80 at Roscoe drew concerns from several area residents. A recent public hearing addressed a request from Werner Construction of Hastings for a conditional use permit to temporarily locate a mobile asphalt production plant at the current site of its sand and gravel operation. Opposition was due to the company receiving a previous permit three years earlier which resulted in numerous complaints. As of now, the commission tabled the matter for 30 days.—reported in the Keith County News.

Two organizations benefit from local farmer

CURTIS—Paul Orman of Maywood was selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Grow Communities gives farmers the opportunity to win a $2,500 donation to direct to their favorite local nonprofit organizations. To further support counties that have been declared disaster areas due to drought by the USDA, winning farmers in these counties were able to direct double the donations. Recipients chosen by Orman were Western Frontier Food Pantry and the Curtis Senior Center.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

100 years of graduates to be in 2013 yearbook

ARNOLD—It's being said that if you purchase only one Arnold Community Yearbook, this would be the year. The 2013 yearbook titled, "Forever Young" will be a keepsake honoring 100 years of graduating classes from Arnold High School. Each graduates' picture from the past 100 years will be in the book starting with the Class of 1913 and ending with this year's graduates, according to yearbook sponsor Julie Mohr. Also included will be historical photos of the town, groups and activities.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Positive feedback continues school drills

CALLAWAY—Feedback from the public has been mostly absent over the recent lock-down drill

and drug dog search at Callaway School. Superintendent Pat Osmond reported that virtually no feedback was received from patrons. A couple of calls were received during the drills due to the number of police cruisers parked at the school, but otherwise, the overall reaction was positive. Gratitude was even expressed for actions of keeping drugs out of the school and establishing the drill to protect students in event of an intruder. Officials decided to continue the drills so everyone can be well-versed in what to do in event of an emergency.—reported in the Callaway Courier.