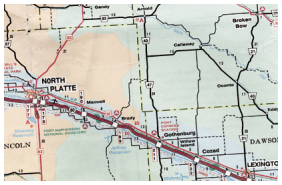

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Cozad, Lexington earn cheer & dance honors

COZAD—Shining bright in the spotlight were the cheer and dance squads from Cozad and Lexington as they competed in the NCA State Cheer and Dance Championships in Grand Island recently. The Cozad High Cheerleaders stood tall in bringing home the crown in the non-tumbling Class C1 Large division. Members of the Cozad Jazz dancers were fourth overall in the Hip-Hop Class C1 division. Lexington was also chosen as the Class B Spirit Award winner. The Liberty Belles of Lexington High were eighth overall in the Hip-Hop Class B competition, and the Orange and Black-clad yell squad was fifth overall in the non-tumbling Class B Large division and 10th overall in the Class B Sideline routine.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Bow man found guilty; sentencing March 21

BROKEN BOW—It took the jury of eight women and five men just two hours to return a guilty verdict Feb. 13 in the trial of Trent Esch, 36, of Broken Bow. Esch was convicted on charges of felony criminal mischief and use of a weapon on the commission of that felony, in connection with the shooting of Deputy Sheriff Dan Spanel's patrol vehicle March 18, 2012. The vehicle was parked in the driveway of Spanel's home in Broken Bow, and sometime between 8:40 and 8:50 p.m., shots were fired from a .223 rifle with 11 rounds hitting the vehicle. Esch is scheduled to be sentenced in Custer County District Court on March 21.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

New well field will impact community

OGALLALA—City officials recently signed a purchase agreement on a piece of property south of Ogallala for a well field. Its impact is expected to be significant and felt by households and businesses throughout the community. One such impact is when peak demands, when people are using a lot of water, there will be more water pumped out of the ground. In addition, the new water source would allow the north wells in the city not to have to pump as hard, which has taken a toll on the existing wells.—reported in the Keith County News.

Local Angus breeder recognized nationally

CURTIS—Frontier Angus Farm, Stockville, has been recognized nationally by the American Angus Association® for having eight registered Angus cows included in the Associations' 2013 Pathfinder® Report. Only 1,992 of the more than 25,000 American Angus Association members are represented in this year's report. The Pathfinder program identified superior Angus cows based upon recorded performance traits economically important to efficient beef production. All registered Angus cows that meet the strict standards are listed, along with their owners, and are published annually by the association.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Arnold students receive awards in the arts

ARNOLD—The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts announced the winners of the 16th annual Nebraska Young Artist awards. Included among the winners is Arnold junior Leah Smith, who will receive an award in the visual arts category. The Nebraska Young Artist awards annually recognize 11th grade students from Nebraska who are gifted and talented in the areas of visual art, dance, music, theatre and film and new media. These students exemplify the pinnacles of creativity in one of the fine and performing arts. Arnold High School sophomore Racheal Smith received an honorable mention for her persuasive writing category.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Lone wrestler is fifth at state tournament

CALLAWAY—South Loup's lone wrestler at state came within 15 seconds of reaching the Class D finals at 160 but still finished fifth in a 3-2 weekend at the CenturyLink Center. Senior Garret Dockweiler pinned a Bayard wrestler in 4:26 to take the fifth place medal capping a 12-point tournament in which South tied for 42nd place overall.—reported in the Callaway Courier.