



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

International Dot Day fun at Wilson Library

COZAD—Starting Sept. 1, Wilson Public Library began hosting a variety of month-long activities to celebrate International Dot Day, inspired by a book of the same name. The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkable way. In Peter Reynolds’s book, the teacher dared the student to “make her mark,” and with encouragement, sets off on a journey of self-discovery and inspiring others. Dot Day began by a group of educators in 2009, bringing a day for classes to explore powerful themes as bravery, creativity and self-expression. Activities at the library include a virtual “Spot the Dot” and a scavenger hunt of local businesses that have dots around Cozad. Each day in September a new dot will be posted on the library’s Facebook page for participants to find.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Hoping for the best by planning for the worst

BROKEN BOW—The community of Mullen braced itself recently, and planned for the worst. In practicing for the worst, they hoped to make the smaller incidents seem a little more manageable. An area wide disaster drill was conducted where a simulated school shooting was portrayed. The mass casualty incident response exercise featured 11 volunteer fire and rescue departments, eight law enforcement agencies, seven school districts, three air ambulance services and four media outlets.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Ogallala VFD celebrates 100 years of service

OGALLALA—One hundred years ago, 40 men paid \$1 dues to join the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department. On Saturday, Aug. 24, firefighters—current and retired—and community members

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celebrated the department's 100th year of service with pomp and ceremony as well as fun. Amidst events for children and adults, fire safety demonstrations, a pancake feed, an ice cream social and opportunities to learn of the department's history, a formal ceremony took place. Dignitaries from Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter's Association, the National Fire Council, area departments, honorary and retired members as well as the public gathered to congratulate the Ogallala department for its continued service and present them with a plaque which portrayed photos of members serving throughout the years.—reported in the Keith County News.

Fourth annual CVFD Poker Run a big success

CURTIS—The fourth annual Curtis Volunteer Fire Department Poker Run took place Saturday, Aug. 24, with 23 motorcycles taking part, including four women riders with their own bikes, as well as one car. Riders departed Curtis and hit five stops along the way, gathering playing cards at each stop. The Poker Run is a fundraiser for the department's equipment fund, and the event raised \$3,140 this year. After hitting all stops, bikers ended up at the Yellow Rose in Curtis where there were door prizes and raffles as well as a dinner. The winner of the poker hand was Stephanie Allen of Culbertson.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

TeamMates Arnold chapter one-year strong

ARNOLD—What began as a hope for students of Arnold has become a reality when Dawn Lewis learned of the TeamMates Mentoring program. Lewis then enlisted Leron Bierman to co-coordinate the program at Arnold last July. After the required training, the two recruited students and mentors, beginning with 10 matches in grades five through eighth. By January, four more had been added to the roster. The group hosts Mentor Nights where events such as golfing and virtual tours are offered. Recently, 16 students signed to find mentors and the Teammates of Arnold program received a special award by Tom Osborne.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

'Separate-but-equal' Kite Flight planned

CALLAWAY—The 23rd annual Callaway Kite Flight was to be conducted over the weekend of Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 at Foster Smith Field. Kite fliers and visitors would see a return to the “separate-but-equal” space policy that had, until the past couple years, managed the flying spaces on and above the field. Last year’s event saw exceptionally unpredictable winds, which caused mayhem between the professional and amateur kites. Areas were once again returned to being marked off zones in order for all kites and fliers to be seen and enjoy the event. Also available were vendors, a catfish fry, ice cream and a Husker party.—reported in the Callaway Courier.