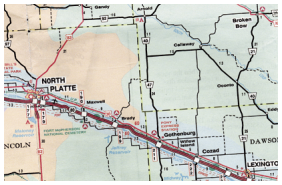

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Prestigious honor for Cozad band student

COZAD—A Cozad High School student and saxophonist, Jesus Estrada, was recently honored as a selection in one of the most prestigious and highest musical honors attainable in Nebraska. Estrada was chosen among 3,000 best high school musicians in the state for the Nebraska All-State Music Event, sponsored by the Nebraska Music Educators Association (NMEA). Guest conductor for the group was David R. Holsinger of Lee University for the 155 selected students. The band rehearsed together with a final public concert Nov. 23 at the Lied Center on the UNL campus.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Preserved sod house becomes research tool

BROKEN BOW—A recent attempt—never done before—proved a success when harvesting an intact section of a 110-year-old sod house. The soddie, built in 1903 by Henry E. (Gene) Chrisman, sits on property owned by Larry and Carla Estes, and is nearly deteriorated with only a couple partial walls remaining. Due to its historical significance and educational value, members of the Custer County Historical Society spent two years planning the proper way to harvest a 2x8 foot section, and with the help of UNL botanists, successfully “saved” the section. Custer County is known as the epicenter of sod house construction in the United States, so the opportunity to salvage and piece of history was important to many.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Old OHS football lights find new home at track

OGALLALA—The old Ogallala High School football field lights were given a new life when the

district donated them to the Wild West Soap Box Derby Association. The lights have been mounted on power poles and installed at the soap box derby track by members of the Nebraska Public Power District. Each pole includes either four- or six-lamp units with the lights towering above a two-lane track. While transformations are still taking place at the track, the lights would be operational in time for the first races in early April. According to school officials, it was a pleasure to help a local entity, especially one with such a positive effect on the community's youth.—reported in the Keith County News.

Fourth graders help garden club plant trees

CURTIS—Members of the Petals Garden Club were instrumental in assembling arrangements with Re-Tree Nebraska and the Eustis-Farnam fourth grade class recently, and for their efforts, 10 free trees were received to be planted in public areas, Kentucky coffee trees and oak trees. Members got together to tour yards, a vegetable garden, a memorial garden, a fruit orchard and other areas for wildlife before making the arrangements. Members of the fourth-grade class helped to plant the trees.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Over $50,000 raised for ACF through donations

ARNOLD—One-hundred eighty-six ticket holders were at the Arnold Community Center recently for the annual Arnold Community Foundation Fund Dinner & Auction. Seventy-eight items donated by area businesses were auctioned off to the highest bidder with a total of $55,032 raised. Preceding the auction, the event began by presenting the Philanthropist of the Year award to Clay and Julie Mohr, who have over 60 years of service to the community between them. Funds will be used to support and strengthen local non-profit organizations and offer grants back to the community for development projects.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Good Life Center marks anniversary on its own

CALLAWAY—The Callaway Good Life Center (CGLC) has been operational for one full year since the Callaway community took ownership of the nursing home. The year was fraught with challenges, victories and setbacks, but CGLC is standing on its own and looking to the future. Resident numbers have been up with an average of 25 to 27. The success is due to the community stepping forward and pledging over $250,000 to fund the takeover from Good Samaritan Society. Staff has gone from 35 to 47 part-time and full-time workers. Future plans include outside improvements for residents to enjoy.—reported in the Callaway Courier.