

Bird count once again tops 100 species

OGALLALA—For the fourth consecutive year, the annual Lake McConaughy Christmas Bird Count surpassed 100 species identified. Although off the record count of 111, the 23rd annual count, which took place Dec. 28, identified 101 species, marking the ninth time that at least 100 species have been recorded. There was a total of 66,900 individual birds recorded, and while there were some notable finds, many resident birds seemed scarce this year including just one American crow. The most unusual find for the year was a yellow-rumped warbler—reported in the Keith County News.

Flu vaccines offered free to eligible children

CURTIS—The Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) have been available on a monthly basis at Curtis offering health clinics with vaccines. The latest, in cooperation with Medicine Valley Schools, offered flu shots. SWNPHD was recently chosen to receive 100 free flu shots through the AmeriCares program and offered them free through their clinic for children 18 years old and younger who are uninsured or under-insured.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

14-year-old makes history on buffalo hunt

ARNOLD—Avery Atkins, 14-year-old Arnold girl, made history on the Ted Turner Ranch when her father, Joe Bob, took her buffalo hunting for a Christmas present. The ranch encompasses 120,000 acres with 36 sections, located 35 miles north and 26 miles west of Mullen. Atkins made history that day by shooting a 1,600 pound buffalo with a .308, the first buffalo shot with that caliber of rifle in the 16-year history of the ranch.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Young motocross racer growing trophy wall

CALLAWAY—Callaway first-grader Bo Brennan, 7, took third overall in the recent 4 to 6 year-old peewee division of the Nebraska Cornhusker Motocross Association. He raced in 10 of the 16 sanctioned races in his first year of competition. The son of Aaron and Kate Brennan of Callaway, began racing with a Honda motorcycle and has moved up to a Cobra 50. The family travels to tracks around the state where he is growing a collection of trophies at his young age.—reported in the Callaway Courier.