Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

CHS students attend Kick Butts Day Rally

COZAD—Four Cozad High School students recently traveled to Lincoln for the fourth annual Kick Butts Day Rally. They represented Cozad High School group STAND and talked with Senator Wightman about tobacco issues and bills in the legislature. Students also worked on posters and rallied through Lincoln with others from various locations throughout Nebraska as they made their way to the capitol, where they also visited with Senator Davis about tobacco-related issues.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

New publisher takes control at the Chief

BROKEN BOW—There was a formal change of command ceremony at the Custer County Chief recently when outgoing publisher Deb McCaslin passed the reins to incoming publisher Les Mann. McCaslin had served as the newspaper's CEO for 12 of the 16 years she was employed. She plans to remain part of the company and work fewer hours devoting her time to the editorial department, photography and writing stories. Mann and his wife, Deb, are relocating to Broken Bow from Wayne and has served the newspaper business in numerous areas bringing experience and award-winning photography and writing.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

OHS student wins women's overall motocross title

OGALLALA—Cidney Foster, a sophomore at Ogallala High School, won the overall championship in the top women's class of the Nebraska Cornhusker Motocross Association circuit. Foster also raced in the Tri-State Circuit and the Rocky Mountain Motocross Association. She qualified for nationals but was unable to attend due to other obligations. She races a 2013 KX 250f, and also competed in the men's 250c class and averaged eighth in a field totaling 22 riders. She is the daughter of Trevor and Dana Foster, and Niki and Brian Vasa, all of Ogallala.—reported in the Keith County News.

NCTA hosts Farm Safety Day activities

CURTIS—The annual Farm Safety Day took place March 27 at NCTA where all area schools attended. There were several events going on throughout the day as kids learned about safety on the farm. Topics taught included water safety, grain safety, electrical safety, national weather service, 911 calls and first aid, skid steer and fire and storm trailer. Many locals volunteered their time to help during the event.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Critter Swap success; continues through fall

ARNOLD—The Mills Hardware parking lot was crowded with people on March 29 as critters from the surrounding area were brought to town to be bought, sold or traded. People from several communities including Comstock, Merna, Gothenburg and North Platte, brought a variety of animals including turkeys, guineas,chickens, rabbits, geese, puppies, kittens, parrots and more. The event was lined up by Lisa Nelson, hardware store employee, who saw success at similar swaps across the state. The first-ever event proved a success in Arnold as well, and will continue every last Saturday of the month through the fall.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

True Value stretches as expansion continues

CALLAWAY—More shelf space and inventory variety is the goal of Callaway True Value owner Ken Pitkin as the store is being expanded. The building will be wider as completion nears on the west side where it had been opened up completely with a new storage and work room added on the north side. Most of what will go in the expanded area will be house and gift wares, the east side will be more for the ever-growing farm/ranch and hardware merchandise, and other sections will include ironworks, lighting, canning supplies and much more. The expansion will provide more selections locally for area residents.—reported in the Callaway Courier.