



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Cozad fifth grader honored for art work

COZAD—A Cozad fifth grader was among 14 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students from across Nebraska honored for their art work by the Nebraska Wildlife Federation. Fifth grader Jacey Smith from Cozad Elementary received the fourth-place honor for creating a poster for Wildlife Week Nebraska in March. The theme of the art contest was Wildlife and Water and focused on the close connection between water and Nebraska wildlife species. Smith's poster featured a family of deer taking a drink of water at a watering hole near a windmill. Winners were selected from among hundreds submitted from across the state for the Federation's Wildlife Week poster contest.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

New 'Discovery Trail' dedicated at Halsey

BROKEN BOW—Smokey the Bear was on hand to help kick-off the new Discovery Loup trail at Halsey National Forest recently where over 60 tree species and shrubs can be seen in a loop around the forest visitor center/office. The project was a group effort with 65 K-8 grade students from Sandhills Elementary as well as students from the University of Nebraska at Kearney's honors program who helped to plant the walking and wheelchair accessible loop. Halsey is known as the largest hand-planted forest in the Western Hemisphere and the oldest nursery with its beginnings as far back at 1915.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Nebraska's first lady thanks The Giving Bee

OGALLALA—Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem recently recognized members of The Giving Bee as the state's Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year during an awards ceremony in

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Lewellen. The Giving Bee began as simply a way to make quilts for children in the foster care system as the quilts would be warm and welcoming as well as something tangible a child could hold onto when being removed from their home. In 2003, Barb Miller of Lewellen gathered a group of fellow quilters and took on the mission, also making fabric bags into which a child could put his or her possessions versus the standard plastic bag. After sewing more than 1,000 quilts and 500 bags, the group was awarded with a most deserved personal recognition of thanks.—reported in the Keith County News.

Local native to speak at NCTA graduation

CURTIS—Curtis-Palisade native Chuck Schroeder is to deliver the keynote commencement address for the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture on May 8 at the Curtis Memorial Community Center. Schroeder has served as executive director of the Rural Futures Institute of the University of Nebraska since Dec. 1, and resides in Lincoln. He also has been director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, executive vice-president of UNL Foundation and was president and executive director of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The college is to confer 84 degrees and certificates to students.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Volunteers combine to clean up Arnold

ARNOLD—An estimated 70 volunteers made good use of a beautiful spring day April 25 to tackle a list of public and residential properties that were in need of a good cleaning. Arnold Public School students and teachers, Rotarians, Legion, Chamber members and Rialto theatre board members all combined forces and got the job done. Volunteers picked up branches, raked yards, cleaned and trimmed bushes, picked up corn shucks, cleaned windows and gutters and picked up trash and debris. The entire month of April was designated as community clean-up month with a free roll-off container provided by the village.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Foundation helps fund school 1-to-1 project

CALLAWAY—Members of the Callaway Community Foundation Fund (CCFF) awarded it's first grant contribution donation of \$5,000 to the Callaway Public Schools to help purchase

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Chromebooks, a smaller, versatile laptop with wireless connectivity, as part of a one-to-one project. The school board had been investigating the best way to incorporate computers for students in grades 7-11 while issuing full-size Dell laptops to seniors. The CCFF applauded the decision and voted to help fund the cost to invest in the future of the community.—reported in the Callaway Courier.