

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Cozad school board requests a civil suit

COZAD—Cozad's School District No. 11 Board of Education has directed attorney Scott Trusdale to proceed with action for a civil suit for the possible collection of funds allegedly misused in the activities account. Earlier, officials said that as much as \$218,000 may be missing. Sgt. Lynn Williams said that an audit shows the money started disappearing in 2004. No arrests have been made and school officials have not commented on the investigation. A school district employee, who has not been publicly identified, has been fired and bank records have been subpoenaed.—taken from the Tri-City Trib.

Keno issue goes to Broken Bow voters

BROKEN BOW—Broken Bow residents should get ready to vote as city council members elected to put Keno on the ballot at the earliest opportunity with a unanimous vote. By law, the council has to take the decision to the people. Keno is being looked at in the city as a driving revenue with at least two businesses interested, according to Tony Tolstedt, administrator. To make Keno legal, the city becomes the licensing agent while the business owner takes care of the day-to-day operation. The cost for a business to start a Keno operation is estimated at \$25,000 per location.—taken from the Custer County Chief.

Ogallala gets grant for demolishing buildings

OGALLALA—Through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the cities of Ogallala and Imperial will receive grant money to eliminate foreclosed, vacant or abandoned properties in their city limits. The state DED recently awarded \$375,000 through the Community Development Block grant Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 to three central Nebraska entities to help with neighborhood revitalization efforts. The main focus of the program is to return safe and decent affordable housing units to the market and allows for the demolition of blighted structures.—taken from the Keith County News.

Hoffman sentenced; Griffitt pleads guilty

CURTIS—Shane Hoffman, 19, of Maywood, was recently sentenced by District Judge David Urbom to 24 months probation for his part in the D&E Feed Store burglary which took place in March. Hoffman must also pay restitution to be paid jointly by his other co-defendants if convicted in the offense. David Michael Griffitt, 22, of Maywood, the second defendant in the burglary also had his day in court recently, and accepted a plea agreement pleading guilty. Griffitt's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 13.—taken from the Frontier County Enterprise.

SHGP nears completion of 9-1-1 sign project

ARNOLD—The county sign project for the School House Graphic Products (SHGP) class at Arnold Public School was nearing completion after two years. The 9-1-1 identification system for Custer County is a project in which every intersection is labeled in case of emergencies and for emergency personnel to get to a specific place faster and more efficiently. The class produced the aluminum signs with white letters to be placed at rural intersections after learning the process of federally mandated signs, and will soon reach completion of the project.—taken from the Arnold Sentinel.

Sports cooperative moves closer

CALLAWAY—Arnold and Callaway school districts appear to be moving closer to a cooperative agreement for all sports activities by the 2010-11 year. Both boards of education met in Arnold recently to discuss the possibilities at length with focus mostly on the upside of cooping football, basketball, volleyball and track. Both boards were open to the idea and plan to hold separate public meetings inviting patrons to provide their input on such matters as uniforms, scheduling and even what to call the combined team.—taken from the Callaway Courier.