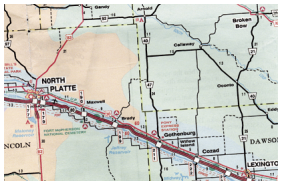

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Downtown fire destroys business

COZAD—A fire last Wednesday caused an estimated $80,000 to $100,000 in damages at Uptown Floral and an apartment in downtown Cozad. Cozad Volunteer Firemen responded to the scene about 11:30 p.m. by a call from the upstairs tenant. The building was filled with smoke and their was extensive damage on both the lower and upper levels. The building is owned by John and Bobbi Laird. No one was injured during the alarm. An electrical malfunction was blamed for starting the fire.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

One Box Hunt announces six celebrity hunters

BROKEN BOW—The rich tradition of celebrity hunters continues at the 50th annual Nebraska One Box Pheasant Hunt slated for Nov. 4-7 in Broken Bow. Former NFL star Chris Bober, author Stephan Coonts, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mark A. Vance and current National Rifle Association president Ron Schmeits will join country music legends John Anderson and Lorrie Morgan as celebrity hunters during this year's Golden Anniversary event.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Moisture lifts 2010 above average

OGALLALA—For the second consecutive year, the annual moisture total at Kingsley Dam will exceed the 30-year expected average of 18.71 inches. Through August, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District officials, who keep track of moisture totals at the dam, have measured 19.68 inches of moisture, nearly an inch above the expected average. During August, 1.62 inches was recorded at the dam.—reported in the Keith County News.

First county wind turbine visible on horizon

CURTIS—Anyone traveling the West Canyon Road south of Eustis is bound to see something new on the horizon as Verl and Monika Jurjens have installed a wind turbine at their farm. The turbine is the first in Frontier County and has a maximum efficiency at a wind speed of 31 mph. The turbine is equipped with a small computer system and is connected to the McCook Public Power electrical grid via a net metering system. When more power is produced than what the Jurjens need, the excess is pumped into the system, and if the Jurjens use more than is produced by the turbine, they will be buying it. The reason for the turbine is to become as self-reliant as we can be, said Verl Jurjens.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

A blended homecoming for South Loup Bobcats

ARNOLD—Wearing the new colors of royal blue, black and silver, members of the newly-formed South Loup Bobcats—combination of Arnold and Callaway athletic programs—celebrated with a week's homecoming activities that culminated with hundreds being served at a tailgate party hosted by Great Plains Communications. The Bobcats won their first game by defeating Anselmo/Merna. The tradition of crowning homecoming royalty was updated by crowning a king and a queen from each school.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Callaway, Arnold, Oconoto Legions united

CALLAWAY—Members of the Arnold, Callaway and Oconto American Legion Posts kicked-off the first-ever South Loup Homecoming football game by bringing their color guards together as one, to help commemorate the occasion and to remember those lost in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, that brought down the World Trade Center towers. The color guards stood solemn as the National Anthem was played prior to the game start.—reported in the Callaway Courier.