



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Teacher terminated for missing school funds

COZAD—A 40-year-old Cozad Middle School mathematics teacher was cited and released on eight counts of theft recently. Cozad Police Chief Mark Montgomery stated that Cherry Canas allegedly took about \$850 from a postal box in a school office during the past several months on several different occasions. Canas is scheduled to face the eight counts of theft during a Dawson County court appearance on Feb. 15. She was formally terminated from her position on the staff of the school on Jan. 24.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Hosting BRAN brings economic influx

CALLAWAY—Callaway is to play an overnight host a third time for Bike Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN) 31. The event is titled “Easy Rider Tour,” and will begin in Brady on June 5. Some 600 riders, plus BRAN staff and private support people will ride 62 miles to reach the village for its first overnight on the road, effectively doubling the population. The caravan of bicycles and vehicles will then leave for points east via legendary Democrat Hill. The riders coming to Callaway will offer opportunities for organizations, businesses and individuals to reap some of the economic influx as food, drink, lodging and services will be in high demand.—reported in the Callaway Courier.

Bow installs new city lights with grant help

BROKEN BOW—Broken Bow is about to be little brighter when the sun goes down. Workers have been installing 550 new street lights with help through an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant. The \$189,580 grant has a city match by replacing the current street lights with LED

lights. There will be an estimated savings of 201,000 kilowatts per year, approximately \$10,000 in electricity. An added factor is their expected life span of 14-15 years, saving even more costs.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Annual bird count sets new record

OGALLALA—The 20th annual Lake McConaughy Christmas Bird Count, which was held on Jan. 2, produced a record 109 species and 20,332 individuals. The 109 species broke the previous mark set in 2002 by one species, and was the top count in the state of Nebraska. A brown thrasher was the unusual sighting during this year's count. Other unusual spottings included a fox sparrow and 25 waterfowl species. Absent from this year's count were snow geese, sharp-tailed grouse and a golden eagle.—reported in the Keith County News.

High level of nitrates in public water supply

CURTIS—On Jan. 21, the Village of Eustis issued a notice of a drinking water warning due to high levels of nitrates. Citizens were warned to not give the water in infants under six-months-old or use it to make infant formula. Boiling, freezing or letting the water stand does not help to reduce the nitrate level, in fact, excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated. Though acceptable for older children and adults, the water can be life-threatening to infants. Corrective actions are being taken and the well was taken out of service.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Generous spirit sends treats to military

ARNOLD—Local Cub Scouts sold just over \$6,600 for a fund-raiser during a three-week period. They sold popcorn and related products up and down Arnold's streets and at many functions. From that total, 70-percent returned to scouting which Arnold's Pack 108 received 30 percent. Two scouts exceeded the \$1,000 sales mark. With the help of generous community members, the club was also able to send an additional eight cases to those serving our country in the military.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.