Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Splatte River Paintball facility to open in Cozad

COZAD—A new indoor arena for Splatte River Paintball will open in Cozad within the near future. The entertainment facility, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Lahm, will be located at 410 S. Meridian Ave. The field, which is covered by Dura-Weave, measures 84'x120'. The Lahms said that a soft surface floor will be installed before the facility is completed. Paint Ball has rapidly become a popular form of entertainment for people of all ages, and the new arena at Cozad will be the only indoor unit in all of Nebraska.—taken from the Tri-City Trib.

Junk Jaunt, in 6th year, raises awareness

BROKEN BOW—Junk Jaunt 2009 is in the books, and by most accounts it was a very successful year. Now in its sixth year, the 300 mile Junk Jaunt trail brings shoppers from all across the United States looking for bargains and treasures. The idea for the event began as a means of raising awareness to the scenic beauty of the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway along Nebraska Highways 11 and 91, and the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway along Highway 2, which forms a loop that includes 21 Central Nebraska communities as well as another 12 in the center and on the fringes who participate.—taken from the Custer County Chief.

Large local marijuana operation busted

OGALLALA—Local law enforcement authorities recently confiscated approximately $500,000 worth of marijuana that was grown in the midst of several Keith County farmers' corn crops, according to Keith County Deputy Attorney Neleigh Korth. Three men, one from Maxwell and two from Lemoyne, have been arrested and each are charged with a Class 3 felony possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. Investigators discovered six or seven plots involving several different landowners and farmers. The marijuana was found during an aerial surveillance, and due to the large amount, federal authorities have been notified.—taken from the Keith County News.

Donations pay for sign, message board

CURTIS—There is a new welcome sign with a digital message board at the intersection of Highway 23 and Highway 18 in Curtis. According to Curtis City Clerk Doug Schultz, the plan for the new modern sign was the result of a meeting with representatives from several organizations. The location of the new sign is where a previous sign had been, and the physical space was donated. No city money was used for the construction, four businesses were major contributors as well as several private contributors.—taken from the Frontier County Enterprise.

Dodge ball tournament kicks off homecoming

ARNOLD—Five teams played in the Second Annual Dodge Ball Tournament held at the community center. Sponsored by the Arnold High School cheerleaders, the event helped to raise money and kicked off homecoming week activities which were to begin with a tailgate party. A pep rally and bon fire were on the agenda as well as a downtown pep rally and the coronation of homecoming king and queen, prince and princess following the Arnold vs. Arthur County game.—taken from the Arnold Sentinel.

Vandals ‘spin donuts’ on the football field

CALLAWAY—Someone decided to “spin some donuts” into the middle of the Callaway football field recently, according to information from District 180 officials. Head football coach Abe Hinman discovered the vandalism and the athletic director contacted law enforcement which is investigating the incident. The damaged field was worked to prepare it for the homecoming football game between Callaway and Eustis-Farnam, and will be reseeded sometime this fall. No suspects had been apprehended as of yet.—taken from the Callaway Courier.