Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Huge crowd honors six hall of fame inductees

COZAD—Over 200 guests were seated for an evening to be remembered of elegance and ambiance at the recent Cozad Hospital Foundation Fall Ball. Paul McGinnis served as master of ceremonies with Chic Garner offering the Invocation. Following the banquet, the festivities began with special awards and honors, Highlighting the event was the induction of the 2009 candidates for the Cozad Health Care Hall of Fame with six being honored including Becky Guerra, Virginia Sitorius, Bill Sloan, Joyce Walker, Larry Whiting and Howard McGinnis. The evening ended with Bill Buckner, keynote speaker, and a live auction.—taken from the Tri-City Trib.

Fall sale to boost funds for hospital auxiliary

BROKEN BOW—After a $65,000 donation for new hospital equipment, Jennie Melham Medical Center's Auxiliary plans to use this year's rummage sale income to replenish its bank account. The auxiliary provided major funding to the hospital purchasing 27 flat-screen televisions, two birthing beds and two fetal monitors to be used in the new patient care wing at the hospital. More than 100 volunteers took part in the three-day community fall rummage sale which not only helps to replenish the group's funds, but also helps residents to get rid of unwanted items.—taken from the Custer County Chief.

Gas leak, fire force two school evacuations

OGALLALA—For the second time in a week, an Ogallala Public School building was evacuated. On Monday, Oct. 12, a custodian in the Ogallala High School alerted Principal Dan Hadden that the smell of gas could be detected in the boiler room. The custodian got in touch with an official from the gas company who instructed him to evacuate the building. The gas leak was found to have come from an old water heater, soon to be replaced, and the all clear was given. On Oct. 6, Progress Elementary School students and staff were evacuated because of a fire in the ventilation system in the kitchen. Damage was minimal and no one was injured.—taken from

the Keith County News.

H1N1 Flu reported in Frontier County

CURTIS—The H1N1 strain of influenza has officially arrived in Frontier County. According to Terry Gourley of the Curtis Medical Center, there were six confirmed cases identified on Oct. 12 with more expected to be confirmed. Medicine Valley Superintendant Alan Gary stated that 20 high school students were absent Oct. 12, but it was unknown how many of those absentees were related to the flu.—taken from the Frontier County Enterprise.

Early storm breaks 1896 snow record

ARNOLD—With harvesting already delayed, records were set around the area as Arnold recorded a whopping 12-inches of snow on Oct. 9 and 10, breaking records from 1896. Arnold also set a record low temperature of 17 degrees. First snowfalls of the season usually occur in November and over 10-inches had not been seen in the last 10 years with less than two inches being normal, 12 inches of snow dates back to the regional record set in 1896.—taken from the Arnold Sentinel.

District 180 officially coop sports with Arnold

CALLAWAY—As of 9:04 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, Arnold and Callaway officially entered into a cooperative agreement to combine all their sports programs for at least the next two years. The Callaway Board of Education voted 6-0 to approve the sports coop during its meeting, and the Arnold Board voted unanimously to coop as well. Athletes from both schools will now combine into one program for all sports next fall with new uniforms, a new mascot and colors as well.—taken from the Callaway Courier.