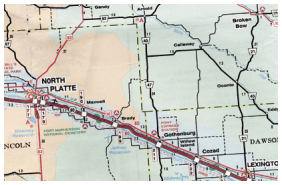

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Smithsonian Exhibit opens in Cozad Aug. 30

COZAD—“Journey Stories,” the National Smithsonian Exhibit, opens Thursday, Aug. 30 at the 100th Meridian Museum in Cozad. President Abraham Lincoln will present the “Cozadburg Address,” and guests will be invited to participate in a Journey Train Travel Canvas. Festivities will continue on Friday with the Union Pacific Challenger arriving at the Wilson Depot, and a Golden Spike ceremony will take place. Saturday, Sunday and Monday will be programming at the 100th Meridian Museum featuring Lindell Whitney showing his extensive Lionel Train collection. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will feature “Cactus,” noted story teller from Hollywood, CA. The schedule then highlights the traditional Hay Days with the theme, “Journey Through the Ages.”—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

Recycling aluminum, plastic benefits school

OGALLALA—Plastic bottles and aluminum cans that are recycled benefit not only the environment, but also earn the Ogallala Public Schools some cash for green projects. As part of the second year’s participation in the Dream Machine Recycle Rally, all residents, individuals, families and businesses were encouraged to sort their plastic and aluminum items and deposit them at bins located at the school. The previous year’s efforts netted the district $1,000 for green projects, and the school placed 13th in a nation-wide contest encouraging recycling. The school received a new look with landscaping plants that were purchased with the prize money won. The Dream Machine Recycle Rally is a multi-year collaboration between PepsiCo, Waste Management and Keep America Beautiful.—reported in the Keith County News.

Johanns drought roundtable at NCTA

CURTIS—United States Senator Mike Johanns recently visited Curtis to join in a roundtable discussion with Nebraska agriculture leaders at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA). Discussions began with the Republican River Compact and the recent conflict between Kansas and Nebraska, then turned to farming employment regulatory measures. Also discussed were topics of the Farm Bill and USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), with the finale of the drought including ethanol. Senator Johanns was presented with an appreciation for his visit.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Lake Rehabilitation project moves forward

ARNOLD—The Arnold Lake Rehabilitation project has been progressing as construction crews work on the outlet area on the east end of the lake. Superintendent Bill Moser, who has been working closely with the Game & Parks Commission, reported on the projects progress at an August village board meeting. Excavation, which began on July 27, was going smoothly and progress looked very good. Crews were working 12-hour shifts, and commission officials were overseeing the project. The village had been providing support by bringing in temporary power.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Multiple fire crews battle another grass fire

CALLAWAY—A power line/transformer near a well south of Oconto was blamed for a raging grass fire that moved from Custer County to Dawson County before it was extinguished late in the afternoon on Aug. 18. A huge column of smoke was visible from many miles away. Numerous fire departments in the area responded to converge on the blaze that was estimated to have burned 1,000+ acres. A crop dusting plane also arrived to dump water on the leading edges. Fire crews battled the blaze through high winds as the fire line moved a half-mile inside Dawson County where it was trapped by irrigated ground and a couple of dams with some remaining water.—reported in the Callaway Courier.