



Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

The Polar Express is on its way to Lexington

COZAD—"The Polar Express," an interactive event for children and parents, is coming to Lexington Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7. This will be an opportunity to view the Christmas lights in Lexington while traveling by "train" to the North Pole. Passengers are encouraged to wear their pajamas and will be entertained by a reading of *The Polar Express*, a book by Chris VanAllsburg, and the singing of Christmas carols. Upon arrival at the North Pole, Santa will greet the children and give each one a sleigh bell. The event is being coordinated by the Dawson County Children's Museum.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

'Band Man' named music educator of the year

BROKEN BOW—Broken Bow Public School's band director Bill Reichert "Band Man," has been named Nebraska's 2012-13 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Outstanding Music Educator. Reichert was nominated for the award by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA), based upon outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic music. He has been the director of instrumental music for the Broken Bow Public Schools since 1974, teaching fifth through 12th grade students.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Lake Ogallala upgrades possible with partners

OGALLALA—Through several unique partnerships, the Lake Ogallala modern campground recently completed a major electrical renovation to 38 of its pads. The renovation included the upgrade of 18 20-amp pedestals to 50-amp pedestals, and the addition of 20 new 50-amp

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pedestals to pads that previously did not offer electricity. The higher amperage plug-ins will accommodate modern recreational vehicles and add to the campground's reputation of being a consistent favorite of visitors to the State Recreation Area's campgrounds.—reported in the Keith County News.

Memorial funds help to improve community

CURTIS—New plaques were recently placed on each of the flagpoles located at the Maywood Cemetery as part of a project by family members of the late Lloyd and Irene Loghry. Memorial funds were used to enhance the project which the Loghrys' were involved. The plaques have the names of the people whom the poles were purchased in memory of by another family member or friend. The original name plates were weathering over time and much of the engraving was difficult to read. The new ones will last for many years. The rest of the memorial funds will be used to purchase electronics for use in the Maywood Christian Church.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Arnold Foundation raises over \$56K

ARNOLD—Members of the Arnold Community Foundation Fund (ACFF) recently raised just over \$56,000 at the second annual fundraiser auction which took place at the Arnold Community Center. The proceeds bring the foundation almost a quarter of the way to their five-year fundraising goal of one million dollars in pledges, planned gifts and donations to be completed by the end of 2015. The event was attended by nearly 200 people and over 100 items were auctioned or given away including vacation packages, grills, seed corn, services and more.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Local mountain lion sightings urge caution

CALLAWAY—Several sightings of mountain lions have been reported in the Callaway/Oconto area with some close to town. Early morning and evening walkers are urged to be cautious and alert when traveling outside of town. A male mountain lion was shot by a deer hunter the opening day of firearm deer season. The incident occurred about 10 miles northeast of Ainsworth in Brown County. The hunter reported the shooting to a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission conservation officer. According to the hunter, the cat walked parallel to him at

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about 35 yards as he left his hunting blind, made eye contact with him, then circled in front of the hunter's path. A subsequent investigation concluded the hunter was justified in killing the 150-pound animal.—reported in the Callaway Courier.