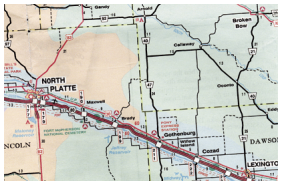


Taken from news columns of area newspapers.

**Middle school students make impact Cozad**

**COZAD**—Making an impact around Cozad were students of the Cozad Middle School who completed their annual paper and toy drive, sponsored by the SMASH group. Students donated grocery supplies, paper goods and more, and all donations were taken to the Cozad Food Pantry to be dispersed throughout the year as needed. Also making an impact were members of Cozad's Rotarians who handed out children's dictionaries to over 80 Cozad third-grade students.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

**Pioneer well from 1880s discovered**

**BROKEN BOW**—There's a rather large hole in a pasture near Weissert on land that Gene French knows like the back of his hand—or at least he used to while he was still combing the grass for musk thistles or checking the cows. And then, about three weeks ago, two generations down, his grandsons told him about their discovery. They found a well estimated to be dug some time in the late 1880s. The well had been covered by wood and earth that had sodded over, which had finally given way to reveal the 26-foot deep hole. After investigating, the area was homesteaded in 1886 and in 1892, making the old well rare and educational.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

**Ogallala woman to sing anthem at NFR**

**OGALLALA**—Lexi Larsen, Ogallala's homegrown country music and now Nashville singer, will perform the National Anthem Dec. 12 during the opening ceremonies of the eighth round of the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) at Las Vegas, NV. Larsen qualified to enter a contest by having performed the anthem during a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned rodeo, then submitted a recording of herself. A panel of judges then selected 12 semi-finalists and eventually Larsen was chosen the hands-down winner by fans voting online.—reported in the Keith County News.

**Former resident quoted in Washington Post story**

**CURTIS**—Former Maywood High School graduate Gordon Roethemeyer was recently quoted in a Washington Post story about the use of technology and the teaching of music in rural schools. Roethemeyer is the distance education director for the Nebraska Distance Education Council. He helped spearhead the program that allows students in rural Nebraska to work with instructors at the Manhattan School of Music in New York via video conferencing. Thus far, 11 schools in Nebraska are taking part in the music lessons.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

**Arnold church notes 100th anniversary**

**ARNOLD**—Members of the St. Agnes Catholic Church, located on North Carrol Street, have been observing the church's 100th anniversary, and celebrated with a Centennial Liturigical and dinner recently. The practices and beliefs of the congregation have also remained unchanged for the past 100 years. Although the year of 2013 has been the observance of the actual time the church building was erected, the church family itself was gathering at homes where ever they could. The first church building had a carpenter's bench used as an altar.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

## Food Pantry Turkey Trot a surprise success

**CALLAWAY**—On a day when the streets of Callaway are typically empty of life, Grand Avenue in front of the Food Pantry was the place to be on the morning of Thanksgiving. To the surprise of event officials, over 70 runners and walkers showed up to participate in the first Callaway Food Pantry Turkey Trot in which no prizes were awarded except a good feeling of donating food and money to the pantry to help others. Participates showed up from Kearney, Holdrege, Cozad and Omaha, as well as locally, and many gathered as families. The event brought in around 15 bags of groceries and over $300 in donations. Officials are already planning to host the event again next year.—reported in the Callaway Courier.