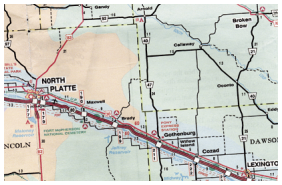

Taken from the news columns of area newspapers.

Joint effort helps Cozad grad recover

COZAD—After a 1995 Cozad High School graduate was attacked by an ex-boyfriend, support from the community and the Teal Lotus project has been substantial, joining forces to help defray medical expenses. Jacey Gengenbach, daughter of Jim and Phyllis of Cozad, who now lives in Omaha, was severely injured from an assault in November of 2012, and although her abuser was sent to prison, her journey of recovery continues ahead with two years of repairing damage to her teeth. The Teal Lotus project has teamed up with “Team Jacey” of social media to begin fundraising efforts with “Save Jacey’s Smile” and will host a Teal Lotus Run on April 26 in her honor.—reported in the Tri-City Trib.

North Park Gym quietly dedicated to coaches

BROKEN BOW—The North Park Gym was quietly dedicated on Saturday, Jan. 25. No ribbons were cut, no speeches were given, no food was served. A plaque was quietly put on the wall and a basketball game was played. The day, however, was special. The North Park Gym, and its basketball court, was dedicated to the memory of teachers/coaches Zane Harvey and Anthony Blum, Broken Bow basketball coaches who lost their lives in a June 2012 accident. Family members and friends participated in the game as referees and cheering on the teams as part of a dedication ceremony.—reported in the Custer County Chief.

Lake landmark slab to receive needed TLC

OGALLALA—For the first time in more than a decade, Keep Keith County Beautiful is preparing to paint the large cement marker near Martin Bay, often known as “The Slab.” The slab has greeted visitors to the lake for more than a decade and has signs of wear. Plans are being made for painting in the spring with a process in the works of seeking grants to help support the effort. The project is expected to take about 10 days to complete. The slab is 150 feet long, 12 feet tall and 8 feet wide with the message, “Leave only your footprints please” painted on both sides.—reported in the Keith County News.

Plane goes down in a cornfield by Eustis

CURTIS—Late Friday evening on Jan. 24, the Frontier County Sheriff’s Office had received a call from the Dawson County Sheriff’s Office at 6:02 p.m. about a plane that went down 10 miles north of Eustis. Sheriff Dan Rupp and Deputy Brett Whitaker who reside in Eustis went out to the scene of the accident where the plane was down in a cornfield beside a pivot. According to Sheriff Rupp there were no injuries. The name of the pilot was not released at the time.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Highway maintenance yard to see changes

ARNOLD—During a snow event, Arnold has been the starting point for trucks to remove snow from highways for decades. However, that will change next fall when a new Nebraska Department of Roads supervisor’s yard is completed at the junction of Highways 21 and 40 near Oconto. Although Arnold’s yard will remain open, it will no longer be manned and would continue to be a reload station for salt and gravel. As Arnold will now become the end of a run instead of the beginning, no significant change in services is expected.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

‘Have a Heart Food Drive’ contest underway

CALLAWAY—The Have a Heart Food Bank Challenge is underway with the competition to last two weeks or through Feb. 7. Participating businesses are taking donations for the local community food banks to restock their selves. The project involves a competition comprised of different categories including big business, small business, grade schools, middle and high school, churches and service groups and clubs. Winners will be published at the end of the contest as the “Heart of Custer County Winners.” Callaway Food Pantry would be among those beneficiaries of the collected food and other items.—reported in the Callaway Courier.