

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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A Part of Arnold’s History Now Gone



Photo/Debbie Connelly

The sign at Zion Lutheran Church was taken out last week, as the church - built in 1965 - now sits empty. The small congregation held its last service on January 5.

Zion Lutheran Church holds last service

By Janet Larreau

A church with a long history in the Arnold community held its last service on Sunday, January 5. Only a few people sadly filed into the Zion Lutheran Church, located just east of the school, with long-time Pastor Ben Eickhoff giving the final sermon.

“The church has closed because of lack of people attending. We had six to seven people in church on Sundays, and they cannot financially support it,” said Bev Engleman, who has served as the church’s treasurer for as long as she can remember.

The history of the church dates back to the late 1930s, when Pastor Bellman of Sumner canvassed the town and felt that it warranted the beginning of services in Arnold. The first services were held on Decem-

ber 15, 1935, with 45 in attendance.

During the years, the congregation worshipped in the Christian Church, sometimes in the afternoon and sometimes in the evening, until 1965, when the present church was dedicated and has been in use since that time. During the years of Zion’s existence, many pastors and vacancy pastors have served here. From January 10, 1973, to June 1981, Lay Pastor Stan Ostgren served both Zion and Trinity Lutheran Church of Thedford. In over eight years to stability, Zion showed considerable growth. With the expertise of Stan, the congregation built an addition to the church consisting of a combination fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms, a kitchen, and bathrooms.

Bev’s husband Doug was raised in the Lutheran church, and the couple has been members for 55 years. In that time,

they have seen many changes.

“Our largest congregation was 40-50 people. Special events sometimes drew over 100,” Bev said. “A lot of them were teachers coming into the community for the longest time. We lost our membership from those teachers moving away to different communities.”

Bev said that many young people don’t attend church anymore, and they aren’t teaching their children to attend.

“That family unit isn’t here anymore, in the bigger towns and cities. We suffer from club activities being held on Sundays, which was usually reserved, and the families just aren’t there. Anywhere, the school and events are the center of the people. You want the school to be the center of the community, but at the same time, you want the church to be the center of the family. Our church was one of the smaller churches and some of the

churches with bigger congregations are seeing the same thing. That’s the sad story of our world,” she said.

As for the future, and where these past Zion members will attend church will be up to them. Some of the members are talking about attending church at Thedford to support Ben Eickhoff, who has served here from 1985 to 2020, and that church.

“Our church was one of the smaller churches and some of the churches with bigger congregations are seeing the same thing.”

- Bev Engleman
Zion Lutheran Church
treasurer/member

Who Done It? Clue In the School

By Janet Larreau

There were several suspects to accuse: Mrs. Badgley, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Mohr, Mrs. Sandager, and Mr. Schwarz. Who committed the crime, where and with what weapon?

In a game of “Clue in the School,” groups of junior high students raced to the business room, para dungeon, junior high English room, and the math room last Friday night to find the clues. Did the culprit use an unabridged dictionary? Basketballs? Mouse Cord? File Cabinet? Or a Compass?

“It was a fun, fast-paced game since the kids had rooms on all three floors of the school,” said Junior Honor Society sponsor Debby Moninger. “With the exception of the security lights which are always on, the lights were all out, and students used their phone flashlights to find their way to the rooms.”

The lock-in started out at 7:00 p.m., watching the movie “Clue” at the Rialto while the kids enjoyed snacks. And then they were off to the school...

Mrs. Moninger said the Junior Honor Society organized “The Escape Room” lock-in at the Rialto last year, and had so much fun that they wanted to organize another movie and game night. The idea for “Clue in the School” came from Ivy Tullis, who with twin sister Anna, asked their sister about her favorite activity when she was in

high school in 2008. Hands-down it was “Clue.”

This year’s JHS president, Delaney Rogers, was one of the driving forces both this year and last year in wanting to add a junior high fun night.

“I got the idea for the “Escape Room” activity last year from a summer course I took at Broken Bow from the SEA Academy,” said Delaney.

She hopes to help design a version of “Amazing Race” for future years that will hopefully keep the junior high activity going beyond her time in JHS.

Others organizing the night were JHS members: Charli Vickers, Gracie Neth, Riata Remund, Ella Cool, Anna Tullis, and Taylor Hanna Miles. The students had to get adult help to run each room, advertise the event, set up, and tear down. Adults helping were: Christie Rogers, Holly Remund, Shavonne Schacher and Mrs. Moninger.

So who did it? Find out on



Did the menacing looking Mrs. Badgley do it in the library with an unabridged dictionary? The clues were in the school last Friday night.

Fair Premium Book Ad Sales to Start Soon

The Custer County 4-H Council and Custer County 4-H Clubs will start selling ads for the Custer County Fair premium book within the next few weeks.

“The ad sales will serve as a fund raising project for the 4-H Council to support the Custer County 4-H program,” says Colleen Peterson, 4-H Aide at

the Nebraska Extension-Custer County Office. “This money will be used for printing the Custer County Fair premium book, trophies, scholarships, trips, medals of achievement, plaques, and many other awards.”

4-H clubs will be selling ads in

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Our Turn: Mysterious UAS Drones Spotted Over Arnold Area

It was our area’s turn last week, as mysterious drones that have been making national news appeared in the night sky. The reportedly large drones - observed in both Colorado and Nebraska - were described as a single flash of light by some, while others observed the lights of multiple drones flying in formation. It all happened after the Sentinel had already gone to press for the week, and there has been much speculation since.

In an interview last Thursday, Custer County Sheriff Dan Osmond said there were reports of sightings from all around the county.

“The FBI talked to me about it, and they just don’t know,” he said.

“Nebraskans are rightly con-

cerned about the recent drone activity,” said Senator Deb Fischer in a January 7 news release. “I spoke with FAA Administrator Dickson directly who informed me that, as of now, there are still no answers about who is using these drones. Yesterday, the FAA, FBI, the Nebraska State Patrol and local laws enforcement officials from Nebraska and Colorado met to discuss how to address the problem. An investigation is underway and the best thing Nebraskans can do right now is to continue to report any drone sightings to law enforcement.”

Congressman Adrian Smith said much the same last week, reporting that he has reached out to the Federal Aviation Ad-

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School Board Reorganizes

Duane Bowers was elected president of the Arnold School Board at the annual organizational meeting held on January 7. Joe Cool was elected vice-president, Eric Nelson treasurer, and Diana Coleman secretary.

Bowers appointed the following committees:

Negotiations: J. Cool, Bowers, and Shane Cool.

American Civics: J. Cool, Merle Bierman, Nelson.

Transportation: Bowers, Bierman, Nelson.

Building & Grounds: S. Cool, Coleman, Nelson.

Personnel: Bowers, J. Cool, Coleman.

Foundation Board Representative: Bierman.

South Loup Co-op Board: Bowers, S. Cool.

Beef Boosters: Bierman, Bowers.

Makerspace: Nelson, J. Cool, Coleman.

The February meeting was designated as the time to review board policies.