

Happy



Thanksgiving



Serving the
South Loup River Valley

The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 23

Over \$60,000 Raised for Arnold Community Foundation

Awards Presented to Philanthropists of the Year

The Arnold Community Foundation held its annual fundraiser Saturday evening at the community center. Some 200 ticketholders enjoyed the meal, auction and presentation of awards that followed.

Board member Carolyn Bowers said there were 60 live and 44 silent auction items donated by businesses and individuals, for a total of over \$60,000.00 raised for the community's savings account that will benefit many projects in Arnold.

Before the auction started, the annual Philanthropist of the Year Awards were presented. The first award is presented to honor an individual who exemplifies the power of giving their time, talent and treasure to benefit the Arnold area during their life-time.

Jake Gilland received the individual honor for his volunteer work with the Rialto Theatre. Since the theater opened to show movies, Gilland has logged in countless hours, preparing and showing the movies each week. He was also recognized for serving as the Cardinal Mascot in high school, and always being available where needed. Another valuable service that Gilland provides the community is being "on-call" year-round to give people who have had a few too many a ride home.

After the awards presentation, Gilland received a standing ovation for his spirit of volunteerism, and true to his nature, stayed until the last guest left.



Members of the Arnold Booster Club line up for a photo after receiving the Organization or Group Philanthropist of the Year Award at Saturday evening's annual Arnold Community Foundation Fundraiser. Pictured, from left, are: Ann and Mike Lehmkuhler, Carolyn and Duane Bowers, Mike Harvey, Tammy and Darren Weinman and Eric Nelson. (Lana Cool photos)

The second category recognizes an organization, group or business that epitomizes the philanthropic spirit of the Arnold community. The Arnold Booster Club received this award.

This organization also works "behind the scenes" to benefit both students and the school.

The club pays entry fees for little kids to participate in activities, packs lunches for students going out of town, and donates to the school for items such as new stage curtains. They raise money by taking money at track meets. Twenty-five percent of gate fees go back to the school, and the rest is used to benefit the community. The Booster Club also receives support from a lot of the businesses in town who advertise on booster ads in the gymnasium and at the track.



Arnold Community Foundation board member Holly Hornung Remund presents Jake Gilland the Individual Philanthropist of the Year Award.

A copper sculpture was given to each winner with their names engraved on them.

The ACFF works to build the "community savings account" or Unrestricted Endowment account. All funds will be used to support and strengthen local nonprofit organizations and make grants back to the community for development projects and programs, community betterment, leadership development, youth and adult education, youth retention, entrepreneurship development and training and philanthropy education.

Anyone interested in arranging an annual pledge of setting up a planned gift to the Arnold Community Foundation may go online at www.arnoldcommunityfoundationfund.org or call 308-848-2462, or contact local fund advisory board members Becky Dailey, Holly Hornung Remund, Shane Cool, Cory Peterson, Dean Weinman, Austin Snyder, Gary Blevins, Kris Hagler or Carolyn Bowers.

Christmas Around Town is December 5

The annual Chamber-sponsored Christmas Around Town in Arnold is set for Saturday, December 5. The day will include business open houses, a craft show at three locations, drawings, a free movie for the kids with free childcare, Santa's visit and the Chamber's annual free appreciation soup and sandwich supper at the community center.

A full page of the day's events, and what businesses will be offering, can be found on page 8 of this issue.

Operation Christmas Child Exceeds Goal Community Packs 467 Boxes For Distribution Around the World



Friendly volunteer Joanie Knight oversees a table filled with supplies, as high school students help little kindergartners choose items to pack into Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes last Wednesday morning in the school's old gymnasium. (Kendra Veirs photo)

In its third year locally, Operation Christmas Child was an outstanding success. Organizer Pastor Dynette Oberg reported that 467 boxes were packed last week, loaded by Mr. Mohr's shop class, and taken to Broken Bow on Thursday morning for shipment to Kearney and then on to the main distribution center in Denver.

A total of 334 boxes were packed by all Arnold students in Grades K-12 at a packing party held last Wednesday morning in the gymnasium. Grades took shifts during the four hours scheduled for pack-

ing. Oberg said each child packed at least one, if not two of the colorful red, green and white OCC shoe boxes with school supplies, toys and clothing. Over 20 residents showed up to help.

Adding to the total were 135 boxes separately packed by members of the Baptist church.

Oberg said she estimates that about \$20.00 worth of items was packed into each box, for a total of over \$9,000.00 donated. Vacation Bible School kids raised \$600.00 last summer to purchase items; the school had a big collection of items leading

up to the party; and residents donated right up to the day of packing.

"That's pretty incredible generosity that comes out of this community. It's something we should be proud of," she said.

Oberg said when Operation Christmas Child first started, the main focus was to distribute boxes to children in war-torn areas.

"I'm sure it has expanded since then, because now over 10 million boxes are distributed from the U.S. all over the world each Christmas," she said. "Every box is opened up and

checked for content before being shipped."

The local OCC effort was started by Melody Jennings in 2013. This year, Oberg offered to take charge.

"I hope it keeps going," said Oberg. "Our community is so used to it by now, (organizing it) is easy to do. It really is a guessing game of how many items are needed. I feel God has a hand in what we need. He lays his hand on people's hearts, and it all comes together."

Thermal Imaging Camera Purchased

The Arnold Fire Department recently purchased a Drager UCF 7000 Thermal Imaging Camera to aid in several jobs that the department could be called to perform. It helps fire personnel to see objects in the dark, especially while fighting a structure fire where smoke can make it virtually impossible to see anything.

Locating hot spots is another value given by this camera. Sometimes fire is located inside walls or ceilings and is not visible right away. The camera makes it possible to locate these hotspots so the firefighters can extinguish sooner, possibly with less damage to property. Because the camera also senses body heat, it is valuable in numerous search and rescue situations.

The fire department purchased the camera with donations from Lynn Bartak and the SORC Winter Party committee. A portion of the funds from past beef raffles was also used.

PTA will Sponsor Giving Tree

This will be the second year for the PTA to be organizing the Giving Tree for teachers and staff at Arnold Public Schools. The tree will be set up at Mills Hardware the day after Thanksgiving and will stay there until Thursday, December 17. Many of these items can be purchased locally, and if they need to be ordered, there will be a website to order from.

The tree will be filled with colored tags with wishes from teachers and staff. The elementary teachers will have red tags, secondary teachers green tags and other staff members gray/silver. Look over the tree and tags and pick one, two, three or even more that you wish to grant. The tags will include the teacher's name and gift items wanted and will have instructions on it. Then wrap your gift and bring it with the tag attached to the school or to Mills Hardware by December 17. On December 18, the PTA will sort all of the gifts and deliver them to staff and teachers so they may open them with their students when they have their class party.

The tree will be set up at the school during the K-12 music program on Friday, December 11. Last year, there was such great support that every teacher and staff member received a wish on their list.

This is a great opportunity to shop for that special teacher or staff member for something that can benefit them in or out of the classroom. The PTA wants to thank all residents of the District for being so supportive of our school, teachers and staff members.

If you have questions, please feel free to call Shavonne Schacher at 308-636-6017 or Jessica Tickle at 308-520-5597.