

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 40

An “amazing” artist



Wonch wins 12 awards in Scholastic Art Competition, three pieces move on to Nationals.

By Janet Larreau

Cecilia Wonch is arguably one of the best artists to ever attend Arnold High School. After entering the Annual Scholastic Art & Writing Competition, 12 of her pieces received awards and three were sent on to be judged at the National level. The pieces were judged in the Nebraska Art Region and covered all art categories.

Pieces winning Gold Keys and sent onto Nationals were: “Unnatural: The City” (comic art), “A Blizzard’s Night” (digital art), and “The Toddlers” (digital art).

Cecilia started the Gold Key award winning 64-page comic book “Unnatural: The City” her freshman year, but it didn’t start out as a comic.

“I wrote a random book called ‘Unnatural’ for fun during the longer school hours and to entertain myself. This summer, I decided to make a comic of the book just for fun and to see how it would go,” she said. “I do remember thinking that I would probably abandon it eventually, but I ended up creating the whole thing and sending eight pages of the comic to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, just to see if it could make it!”

The comic panels she selected were ones she thought had moments that people would hopefully understand, since it was a chunk of the full comic.

“These panels had a more simple, less complicated layout and I felt like I worked better on those panels than any other panels that I did in the comic,” she said. “I started drawing the comic sometime in July and I think I finished my last panel



Courtesy photo

Cecilia Wonch makes corrections on a digital art piece titled “Unnatural: The City” - a 64-page comic that earned a Gold Key in the regional Scholastic Art Competition and has now been judged at the National level.

in early October. I am still working on fixing some of the drawings and making other corrections.”

The two digital art pieces that qualified for Nationals were

part of an art portfolio that Cecilia titled “The Girl and Her Dragon.”

“I wanted the portfolio to be fun and to hold a ‘story-book-like’ presence to it. I focused

more on the lighting in these two digital arts. I first went through drawing the sketch, then going onto the base colors, added the shadows and details, and last, added the lighting,” she said.

Pieces winning Silver Keys were: “The Girl and Her Dragon” (art portfolio), “Life With Horses” (art portfolio), “The Perfect Day” (digital art), “Golden Morning” (drawing & illustration), “Unnatural Trailer (film & animation), “Winter in the Sandhills” (painting), and “Down to the Dismal” (painting).

Two of her pieces were recognized as Honorable Mention, including “Fire’s Warmth” (digital art), and “Rustic Horse” (drawing and illustration).

APS art teacher Katie Berglund said that as a student in two of her classes, Cecilia continues to amaze her.

“She is eager to learn new skills and apply them to her work. When she isn’t working on assignments, you can find her experimenting with different mediums. As a diligent self-starter, Cecilia guides her own independent study where she has completed works to enter in multiple art exhibitions,” she said. “She has an extensive skill set to bring to the table. Not only is she extremely talented with pencil, ink, watercolor, colored pencil, etc., but she has also written and illustrated the comic using a digital format. She has openly accepted feedback from other teachers and peers and applied it to revisions she has made. This demonstrates her willingness to collaborate and receive constructive criticism from others. I am very proud of her and the work she has created. It

is not easy to find the time to paint and draw when you have other homework to do, but she always seems to find time.”

Each year the Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition that recognizes creative achievement in area 7-12 grade students. The young artists and writers compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. This year, a panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 2,200 entries. Overall, they awarded 209 Gold Keys, 254 Silver Keys, and 385 Honorable Mention Awards. Students who receive Gold Key Awards for individual works and portfolios continue to the national competition held each spring in New York City.

Since its start in 1927, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have acted as a venue for the community to view the exceptional creative work of public, private, and home-schooled students from the Greater Cleveland area. It also provides students, parents, and art instructors an opportunity to understand the importance of developing and encouraging creativity. Art & Writing alumni include Cy Twombly, Truman Capote, Robert Redford, Andy Warhol, Stephen King, and Sylvia Plath.

Editor’s note: Official judging at the National level was announced on March 17 at 12:00 p.m. Watch for Cecilia’s results from Nationals in the next issue. She is the daughter of Lee and DanDee Wonch.

Village Board approves loan and grant

At the March 8 Arnold Village Board meeting, members approved a \$6,000.00 loan from the Economic Development Fund to A-1 Auto Repair to purchase a tire machine and a pressure washer, as recommended by the AEDC. The AEDC also recommended a \$2,000.00 grant to accompany the loan, which was also approved. AEDC Director Cheryl Carson made the request after her monthly update.

Resident suggests special fund for CC

RT Green was at the meeting to discuss the community center and the floor. He suggested that the Board consider establishing a fund specifically for non-emergency repairs and upkeep to the Center in the upcoming budget. He also suggested a small fee increase or some type of percentage fee to fund the repairs and maintenance.

“I think it is up to the Village population to step up and keep the community center going,” he said. Once there is a specific fund set up, RT is willing to donate \$1,000.00 as seed money as long as the fund is established and maintained. Chairman Glen Blowers said board members will keep that in mind when they are working on the upcoming budget.

Upcoming Event

Jess Halstead and Ann Vettel of Grazers Bar & Grill attended

the meeting to discuss Grazer’s 4-Wheel Drive Pasture Crawl and barbecue competition. The Crawl will be a two-day event held on July 16 and 17. The Midwest BBQ Association will sponsor the barbecue competition. Bands will provide entertainment and a firm from Grand Island will provide security. Jess will obtain a special events insurance policy listing the Village as additional insured. Board members voted to lease Old Mill Park to Grazers from July 15-18 for \$150.00 for the event. Board members also approved a special designated license to Grazers for July 17 at Old Mill Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., for the pasture crawl and competition. In addition, the Board voted to allow camping at Old Mill Park for the sponsors and the barbecue competitors.

Pool personnel, rates

At the January board meeting, the Board authorized Donnell DeLosh and Aaron Olson to hire personnel for the pool. The following were hired contingent that qualifications are met: Pool Manager/water safety instructor - Shavonne Schacher; assistant manager (1) - Haley Reed; assistant manager (2) - Kenna Rogers; full-time lifeguards - Hannah Burnside, Reagan Cool, Kacey Dvorak; part-time lifeguards - Jayden Hanna, Halie Recoy, Shayla Tickle, and Charli Vickers. Rates were also set for the pool and swimming lessons.



Courtesy photo

Smith presented 60 year certificate

On Sunday afternoon, Charles Foran (right), Legion Adjutant, and John Phillips (left), Commander of American Legion Post 130, presented Max C. Smith (center) with a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership from National Headquarters. Phillips said, “Max and Joan Smith have been unsurpassed in their service to the Legion, Auxillary and Arnold community. Max served in the Korean War era. Congratulations and thank you both, Max and Joan, for all you do to make Arnold a great place to live! We appreciate you!”