

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 44



Photo/Kevin Neth

Prom returns with a glow

After last year's prom was delayed into the summer due to the pandemic and was anything but normal, Arnold and Callaway kids truly appreciated the moment last Saturday night, as they gathered in Arnold High's decorated gym to enjoy an evening of dining and dancing in the traditional fashion. Some 90 guests, including dates and servers, entered a "Glow in the Dark" scene, which was open to parents to view before the grand march began. After Prom activities kept students and many parents active into the wee hours of the morning. (Above) Arnold and Callaway Class of 2021 pose for a picture before the annual promenade at the Arnold High School.

Clean-up Day is fast approaching, sign up now

Residents are encouraged to sign up for clean-up day scheduled for April 19. Volunteers from Arnold Rotary, Arnold Chamber, Arnold Public School, American Legion and village personnel will be going down the list to make Arnold shine.

To have your name placed on the list, call Patty Lamberty at 848-2228 (cell 308-520-4495) or Becky Dailey at 848-2522.

Legion members will be available to pick up almost any type of metal. Call Mike Harvey at 308-530-1065 to schedule a pick up.

The entire month of April has been designated as community clean up month. A roll off container has been placed at the village street shop for your convenience when cleaning up your property. There is no charge for village residents to use the container during April. Not accepted in the container will be tires, construction rubble, appliances, batteries, computers and household hazardous waste.

A rain date of April 26 has been scheduled in case of inclement weather.

Open houses set for Saturday

Four County Boutique, Nails for Starz, and Smooth Aesthetics Spa will hold open houses this Saturday, April 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Details of each open house can be found in an advertisement inside this issue.

After 39 years of teaching and coaching, Mr. P. reflects on his career before retiring



Rick Peterson congratulates Jadeyn Bubak with her first place victory in the 100m Dash at the South Loup Invite on 4-6-18. Also pictured in the background are her dad, Ted Bubak, and head girls' coach Mike Weverka. "Mr. P.," as he is known, has coached two generations of track athletes, including Jadeyn's parents, Ted and Renee, who he describes as "unbelievably talented."

By Janet Larreau

As the 2020/2021 school year comes to a close, long-time Arnold History teacher and coach Rick Peterson is cherishing his last few weeks of being with the kids - in the classroom and on the track - before his retirement.

Mr. Peterson graduated from Missouri Valley, Iowa, just across the river from Blair, Nebraska. He graduated from Midland University in Fremont in May of 1982 with B.A.'s in Social Science and Physical Ed-

ucation, which was an addition to his coaching endorsement. He went on to earn a Master's degree in Educational Administration in 1992 from UNK.

"I chose Social Science because I was always a history and government junkie and still am," he said. "The Master's degree was a bad decision on my part when I thought I wanted and needed the additional money administration offered. Once I had the degree and thought it out, I decided for me, the extra money wasn't worth it."

After earning his teaching degrees, Mr. Peterson served as a

long-term sub for half a year at Fremont Middle School, but Arnold has basically been his first and last school. He had just turned 22 years old, and wife Barb was 20 when he interviewed at Arnold. He had several job offers, but once they saw the town, the decision was made.

"It was my last interview on a route through Nebraska in which I interviewed at three different places and it was the prettiest town of them all, in my opinion. I've always been a big fan of the Sandhills and wanted to be somewhere in the area. I just felt that Arnold was

the fit for my family and Barb liked it also," he said.

On August 15, 1982, Mr. Peterson stepped in front of his first class. To give it some perspective, many of those first students have already retired from their careers.

"Hectic" is the word that Mr. Peterson uses to describe his first year with seven preps and coaching three sports.

"I was definitely over my head. I pretty much kept my head down and tried to do my best, which probably wasn't very good. It got a lot easier, but I certainly wasn't that well prepared in the beginning. I think

"I think the Arnold community needs to remember that it was their decision back in the 1990s to save a badly deteriorating track that created the success. It was going to be expensive to fix, but community members showed up in numbers to take out the inner curb and help with cutting out cracks. This decision 25 years ago is the reason South Loup always has the largest teams and has been the main reason for the success of their teams. Thank you to the Board members who decided to keep the track and to those who worked to keep it."

- Rick Peterson

sometimes you just have to do it to figure out if you are good at it," he said.

Mr. Peterson's teaching philosophy has always been "Attitude is Everything."

"What I mean by that is if you have a positive attitude that what you're doing is important, the students will pick it up. I don't think it matters what you are teaching. If you have enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards it, the students pick it up," he said.

Over the years, Mr. P. has put in extra hours to help his students out - he says it has been for selfish reasons.

"In the morning, the students that show up early to work on school often want to talk about whatever is on their minds. What a great chance to meet and work with kids in person, not just in class. It always makes my day when they show up early to work because they need help, or just to chat. The same goes with sports. Extra time means extra opportunity to give an opportunity to create a positive impression and get a positive reaction," he said.

See Mr. P., Page 8