

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Amber Tatman photo

Firemen from Arnold and Stapleton work together to support a wall in the aftermath of a house fire northwest of Arnold last Thursday, April 1.

## Fire Destroys Home Near Arnold

The community of Arnold rallied together on April 1 to provide assistance to the family of Ryan and Cindy Tullis, after their newer country home burned to the ground.

At 1:30 p.m., fire departments from Arnold, Stapleton, Callaway, and Merna were called to the scene of the house fire located in the Arnold Fire District northwest of town. With the area already on fire alert, and

with south, southeast winds blowing at 15 miles per hour, firemen were on the scene until 7:00 p.m., extinguishing and monitoring for outbreaks that could have led to a grass fire. Country Partners helped fight the fire by hauling water. Everything was destroyed, including all of the dwellings and vehicles.

At the time the fire broke out, only Cindy was at home. She es-

caped with no injuries.

With the family losing all of their possessions, drop-off points at Grazers and Mills Hardware were immediately set up to receive donations of clothing and most anything a family needs, such as toiletries. A fund has also been set up for the family at Pinnacle Bank.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's office.

## State Confirms Presence of Three COVID-19 Variants

After weeks of decline followed by a steady plateau, coronavirus cases are rising again in the United States. In Nebraska, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that newly reported cases are steady but rose 9% for the week of March 16-29. The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases in Nebraska has risen over the past two weeks from 230 new cases per day on March 13 to 291 new cases per day this past Saturday.

To date, a total of 162,560 Nebraskans testing positive for COVID-19 have recovered. The total number of COVID-19-related deaths reported in Nebraska is 2,180. COVID-19 hospitalizations increased slightly.

The state has confirmed the presence of three COVID-19 variant strains: the B.1.1.7 variant that was originally identified in the United Kingdom, the B.1.429 variant that first surfaced in California, and the P1 variant from Brazil. A total of 103 of these variants of concern have been identified in the state. To date, 70 cases of the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant, 31 cases of the B.1.429 variant, and 2 of the P1 variant have been identified in Nebraska. All available vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna and the new Johnson & Johnson/Janssen Pharmaceuticals vaccine, appear to be effective against these variants.

Although caution is required because of many the many unknowns surrounding the new

variant strains, vaccines remain the greatest hope for returning to normal.

As of Monday, April 5, the entire state will move to Phase 2B, which includes all Nebraskans age 16-49. This does not mean that every health district will immediately be able to vaccinate any adult. Some local health departments may choose to begin Phase 2B by prioritizing according to age within the phase (for example, by starting with only those persons 40 years of age and older).

Currently most health districts are in Phase 2A, which allows those Nebraskans aged 50 and older to be vaccinated. Up to 10% of the weekly allocation will be allotted for high-risk medical conditions.

## Duet Acting Team Selected as “Best of the Best”

Two weeks after winning Class D2 State Championship medals in Duet Acting, senior Landyn Cole and junior Reagan Cool learned they had been selected as the “Best of the Best” in the state - not just the best in Class D-2, but the best duet in all six classes.

Judges at state speech took the ratings sheets and comments from each speech, in each class, to determine the overall best speech winners from classes A, B, C1, C2, D2, and D2.

The girls didn't even know such an award existed.

## Sign Up Now for Clean-Up Day

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.

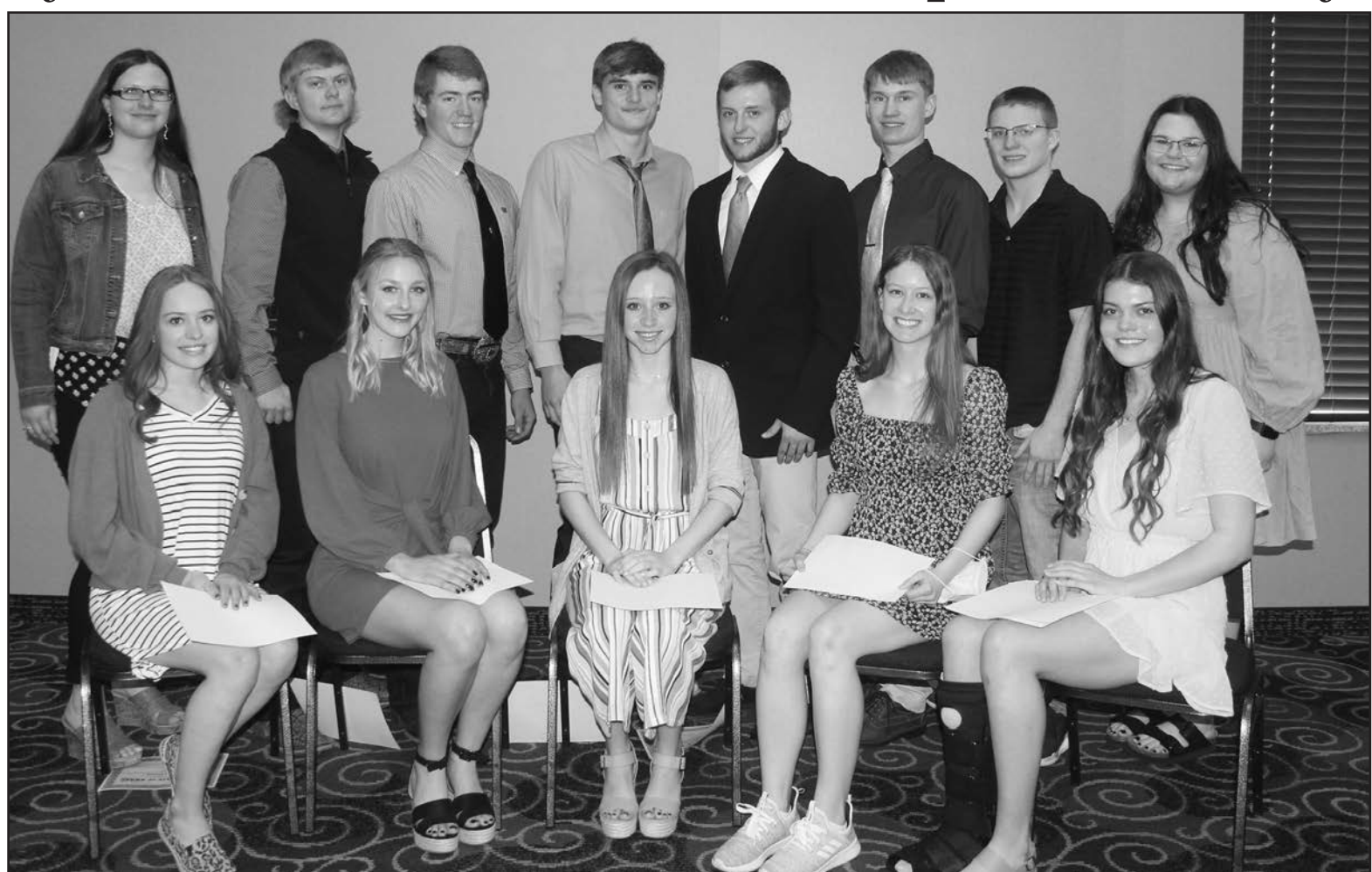
## Custer County Foundation Awards Scholarships at Ceremony

Several Arnold students awarded scholarships

The Custer County Foundation held their annual Scholarship Award Ceremony on Sunday, March 28, at the One Box Convention Center in Broken Bow.

Alicia Hermsmeyer, Board Member and President of the Custer County Foundation, conducted the welcome to the estimated 350 people in attendance. Alicia also introduced our guest speaker, Levi French, who grew up in Broken Bow and graduated from Broken Bow High School. Levi attended Texas A & M University where he competed his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Levi currently lives in Broken Bow, Nebraska and works as a mechanical engineer at Sargent Pipe.

Levi shared his story with the guests in attendance. He mentioned how difficult classes were and he had a real eye-opening experience after he received his first exam grade. He started asking for help, made a conscience effort to stay focused, kept a good friend group, worked hard, and set up a way to manage his time effectively, and classes started to become easier and he began



Photo/Custer County Chief

Custer County Foundation scholarship recipients from Arnold and Callaway High Schools are, front row, from left: Kylee Lehmkuhler, Arnold; Landyn Cole, Arnold; Kacey Dvorak, Arnold; Calyn Laible, Callaway; and Jadeyn Bubak, Arnold. Back row: Cecilia Wonch, Arnold; Reagan Ross, Callaway; Dalton Kunkee, Callaway; Drew Vickers, Arnold; Sam Cool, Arnold; Eli Taylor, Arnold; Carson Mason, Callaway; and Macy Rynearson, Callaway.

See Scholarships, Page 8.