

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Report on Community Center Flooring Fundraiser Presented at Village Board Meeting

Country Partners, Land O'Lakes Foundation make big donations.

Before the Village Board's regular meeting convened on August 9, members were surprised to receive two large donations for the community center's flooring fund from Country Partners Cooperative manager Peg Scott. The checks - each made out for \$10,000.00 - were from Country Partners and Land O'Lakes Foundation. During the meeting, AEDC Director Cheryl Carson gave an

update on the fundraiser for the flooring that, with these donations, totaled \$60,122.50. The goal is \$125,000.00.

Carson said the AEDC participated in the Custer County Foundation's "Give 4 Custer County" fundraiser to help raise money for the new floor. The base amount raised was \$13,622.50, not including any of the matching pool. Custer County Foundation will give

away at least \$30,000.00 in matching funds that will be distributed proportionately to participating nonprofits based on the total amount raised by each organization. The amount of the matching fund was announced at the Custer County Foundation's 30th Anniversary celebration in Broken Bow on August 12 (see photo and accompanying report on page 4). Carson reported that as of Au-

gust 9, funds raised for the flooring follow:

Give 4 Custer County Fundraiser - \$13,622.50; Custer County Tourism Visitor's Grant - \$10,000.00; Custer County Foundation - \$15,000.00; Donations (including Country Partners and Land O'Lakes Foundation) - \$21,500.00.

The Arnold Community Center Floor Fund Thermometer will be located downtown in

Koubek Gardens and will be updated weekly, as well as in *The Sentinel*.

Later in the meeting, the village clerk said that Midwest Floor Covering has the community center on their schedule for October and will be sending out samples on colors, material and layout. Once everything is

See Flooring Fundraiser, Page 4

It Couldn't Happen Without Them

Volunteers recognized on this year's SORC banner.



Bailey Schwarz/School House Graphic Products Design

Snapshots of 50 volunteers were featured on this year's Sandhills Open Road Challenge banner that hung from the Optima banner at the start line. RT Green, who purchased the rights to the banner in 2020, came up with the special idea of recognizing the important individuals who help make the event successful. RT reached out to volunteers, asking them to submit a photo for the banner, and said with the diligence of SORC President Clay Mohr, the idea came to fruition. "They are who make the race happen. Without the volunteers, there would be no race," said RT. The number of people who volunteer and have volunteered over the years, far exceeds the 50 people pictured. Due to the growth of the SORC, it is estimated that some 300 people now volunteer in innumerable ways. Their dedication not only benefits the SORC event itself, but the town as well, with over one million dollars going back into the community since SORC's inaugural run in 2001. With the 2021 event now in the record books, please turn to page 5 to read more about the event and page 8 to view the results of who had the fastest times and received awards after Saturday night's big barbecue in the park.

Patrons Speak Out Against Health Education Standards

School Board passes resolution.

Some 20 patrons of School District #89 attended the regular school board meeting held last Tuesday night to express opposition to the currently proposed National Health Education Standards that have created much controversy. A number of people spoke prior to the start of the meeting.

Former school board member Diana Coleman gave everyone a handout that provided bullet points of what is contained in

the proposed standards, including what is hidden within the sex-ed standards. She mentioned that Draft #2 of the standards is an improvement from Draft #1.

"I am aware that the Board plans to write a resolution against implementing the standards, and that schools are allowed to opt out...for now," she said. "I guess I would like to say that writing a resolution or opting out of the standards isn't

enough. I would like to request that you take it a step beyond the resolution. I would like you to write a letter stating that they need to scrap the standards all together. Some of our neighboring schools have already done this and I would strongly encourage you to do your part to not just protect the children of Arnold, Callaway, Custer, Logan, and Lincoln counties, but the children of Nebraska. These standards

have not been developed with our kids' best interests in mind. This is an agenda that is being pushed by the radical left, along with CRT."

Superintendent Joel Morgan said that a big part of concern of those who came to the meeting was a matter of the content of the standards and maintaining local control.

"They felt that parents and guardians should be the ones to teach those things. The senti-

ment was that it be known openly and publicly, with the idea that if you sit back and saying nothing, that you are indifferent or support the standards. The resolution will make that clear," he said.

After everyone's concerns were heard, Board members unanimously voted to approve a Resolution opposing the cur-

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She made it!

Mildred Smith celebrates 100th.

By Janet Larreau

When Mildred Smith woke up in her home in Arnold on Monday, August 9, she exclaimed to her daughter, Trudy, "I made it!"

Mildred had officially turned 100 years old.

Two days prior - on August 7 - family and friends threw a big party for Mildred at the United Methodist Church, with a whopping 161 guests signing the register. Not wanting to miss greeting a single person who came through the door, Mildred stood almost the entire two hours, holding onto the side of the table for balance.

"I finally sat down the last ten people. I was getting tired after 150!" she said. "Everybody had such a good time. I could hear them in the fellowship hall and saw them hugging each other. And she loved the decorations.

"Everything was decorated in rose gold and there was a lot of sparkles. I love sparkly things. It was so pretty!" she exclaimed.

Every member of Mildred's immediately family, with the exception of Trudy's husband, Ross, were there for the celebration, including her four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Mildred has lived almost her entire life in Arnold, but she

was born near Bertrand, Nebraska, when a doctor came to her parents' country home to deliver her.

She was the first child born to Lee H. and Zelma Bailey, and her brother arrived five years later. He passed away at the age of 7 when Mildred was 12 years old. After that, she was raised alone.

When she was a little girl, Mildred's father took a job in Arnold on Maxson's Dairy, located on the corner where Gary and Jo Crow currently live. She has been a resident ever since.

She married Don Smith in 1942 and he was drafted into the service that same year. Both of them were only 20 years old.

"I didn't see him for three years. He served in Europe and fought on Omaha Beach on the third day," she said. When he came home, we had to get reacquainted," she said.

The young couple moved to the family farm. Mildred was 27 years old when son Craig was born. Trudy came along when Mildred was 34 years old, and Todd was born when she was 37. Todd passed away in 1997 at the age of 38.

Don retired from farming and the couple built their new home in Arnold in 1976. He passed away in 2004 and as of this date, Mildred has lived in the same home for 45 years.

Mildred doesn't do house

See 100th Birthday, Page 2



Photo/Jessica Tickle

At her 100th birthday celebration, Mildred Smith (left) greets friend Sue Beshaler - just one of 161 people who turned out to honor one of Arnold's finest.