

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Fall Festival 2022 Brings Community Together Food Pantry Receives \$4,000 in Cash Donations

By Janet Larreau

“Welcome to the 2022 Arnold Fall Brawl!”

Tim Rosentrater got a few chuckles from the “older crowd” last Saturday morning, as he picked up the mic in the city park and announced the beginning of the Arnold Community Fall Festival parade. For those in the know, brawling used to be part of the Fall Festival in distant decades – thus the coining of the name – but not this year. Rather, it was more like a big, fun family reunion, leaving everyone feeling “connected.”

Relaxing in the park and lining the streets, spectators enjoyed Tim's own style of announcing the arrival of some 25 entries. Legion Post 130 Color Guard led the parade, standing at attention while talented AHS sophomore Danah Baldwin sang “The National Anthem.” With judging of the entries held before the parade, everyone heard who won prizes. Winners were: Best Decorated – Pinnacle Bank with the 80's slogan “A Diamond is Forever,” and Best Theme – Homegrown Kids Daycare with “The Best Part of Waking Up is Folgers in Your Cup.” Entrants threw out some fun treats, including old-school Bazooka bubblegum; Riverview Apartments promoted the theater, throwing envelopes containing valuable Rialto and BrewBaker bucks; and Great Plains Communications was tossing cool t-shirts. The Bobcat football team kept everyone on the move, spraying the crowd with water from high atop a firetruck.

After the parade, Casey and Nicole Cozad served a free-will donation lunch of grilled hotdogs and brats, macaroni and potato salad, chips and water provided by Mills Hardware.

Eight contestants competed in the Arnold Food Pantry benefit talent show. Winners were: Best Humor – Keller Long; Best Poetry, Jerry Ahrens; Best Musical Styling – Elliott Brast; and Best Overall – Sam Connell.

The petting zoo was a huge hit, with kids stopping throughout the day. Some kids got the chance to feed an animal. Included in the zoo were goats, a paint pony, miniature cows, and playful cats.

The cornhole tournament had 11 teams entered. Winners



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Pinnacle Bank was awarded the Best Decorated Float of the Arnold Fall Festival parade. Pictured are: (l-r) Patty Goodenow, Carma Edwards, Titus Coleman (driver), Aaron Coleman and Jessica Fletcher.

were: 1st place – Rick Schweitzer and Matt Connolley and 2nd – Trey Connell and Leyton Connell.

The National Honor Society and Junior Honor Society sponsored games for the kids, and the AHS Art Club had lots of kids lining up to have their faces painted. The line of kids waiting to climb the rock wall formed at the start of the festival and was still going at 4:30 p.m. The bouncy house was also a big hit.

Many people showed up to watch and participate in the golf cart races and Redneck Olympics. Eighteen, two-person teams competed in the blind-fold golf cart races. Heather and Zach Hagler were the winners for the 2nd year in a row in a time of 36.9 seconds. The “A” Team, with members Andrew and April Tickle and Josh and Molly Magill, were the overall winners of the Olympics, competing in the Buddha Belly Balloon race, Bucket Brigade Challenge, and Double D Slingshot.

During the day, people enjoyed browsing the items displayed at four vendors that had set up at the park.

Weatherwise, it couldn't have been a more perfect day. Everyone is looking forward to 2023 and what will be in store.

Talent Show Spurs Donations to Food Pantry

The idea of hosting a talent show at the festival to benefit the food pantry came from Jessica Lamphear, who visited the food pantry and saw the depleted shelves. She went to businesses in town to get prizes for the talent show. With the ministerial group, Food Pantry Director Lori Stutzman and Jessica approached festival organizers, asking if they could hold the talent show as an event. Many businesses donated prizes, canned food, cash, and Rewards Points at Reed's Food Center. In About 10 days, businesses and individuals had donated \$4,000.00 in cash.

At this time, the food pantry serves around 10 households in Arnold and Stapleton.

“As inflation has gone up, I have already seen an increase in need for assistance,” said Lori. “The food pantry is a ministry of our local churches and because it is, you don't have to qualify to get assistance. We get no government funding. We have ran for at least the last ten years-plus on purely donations from the community, as well as Arnold and Stapleton schools, as well as business food drives. Thank you to everyone who helps me help others in the community.”

School Board Approves Budget

Arnold Board of Education voted 6-0 to approve both the proposed budget and combined school tax levy for the 2022-2023 fiscal year at their regular meeting held on September 15.

The budget is \$3,422,549.00, which is up by about 2 percent from the previous year. The combined school tax levy will be 75.5024 cents per every \$100.00 of assessed property value, which is down 1 percent from last year's tax rate.

“We tried to minimize the tax increase given what we have encountered regarding inflation. We will continue to utilize some federal funds to help offset increases in operational costs. With valuations increasing 2.88 percent, we end up levying more dollars while not increasing the levy,” said Superintendent Joel Morgan.

The budget includes a necessary cash reserve of \$645,000.00. The administration and board has been very intentional the last few years in building up the District's reserve in case of unexpected expenses and will continue to

built that. A total of \$2,411,866.00 is in the special building fund. There are no current plans in place, but the school will continue to look at immediate needs, while also looking at the big picture for future planning.

“The great thing about our board is that they always take a common sense approach and are always asking great questions. There is always meaningful conversation and active participation by all of them. When everyone takes an active role, we are able to remain progressive and continue to make this district great,” said Mr. Morgan.

In other action items, board members voted to purchase an enclosed trailer that will be split between the Devil's Den Bike Rally, SORC, and the school to be used for each of their events.

Kindergarten Skills Based grading was also approved. This will create a report card that will better explain to parents what skills their child is working on and where they are currently.

Village Gives Okay to Improvements

Downtown improvements was just one of the agenda items discussed at the regular Village Board meeting held on September 12. Krista Eggleston, representing the Downtown Revitalization Committee was at the meeting to ask permission for the committee to paint the downtown light poles. She said that there are about 25 poles and they would be painted black. Superintendent Doug DeLaune mentioned that the poles have a lot of electrical apparatus on them and the project would need two bucket trucks. He will check with Callaway about using their truck. Discussion was held on who pays for the paint? Krista said they are hoping to get funding from grants and/or the Arnold Community Foundation. Board members said the village employees could help with this project to beautify the town. Board members granted permission to proceed. The committee will coordinate the project with DeLaune.

Representing the Arnold Community Gun Club, Cheryl Carson attended the meeting regarding the gun club building. Plans for this fall include replacing the windows on the north side of the building and both doors. The next goal will be to apply steel siding, as well as a ADA compliant ramp. A grant application will be sent to the Arnold Community Foundation. The club will also look into funding from other locations and resources. She

asked that the building be put back on the Village's insurance policy once the remodel begins. Board members unanimously voted to add the building back on the policy.

Board members adopted Resolution 2022-8, granting the necessary funds for land purchases to the Arnold Economic Development Corporation according to the AEDC plan. The land will remain the property of the Corporation until such time it is sold or transferred to an eligible business. Proceeds from the sale or lease of land purchases and/or developed with funds generated may be used for the purchase and development of additional real estate.

Resolution 2022-9 was also adopted, stating that the Village obligates the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) from the U.S. Department of Treasury in the total amount of \$101,529.04 for the purpose of Water Improvements 2022. The funds will be expended by 2026.

In other business, the Board: Heard that the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy approved the application for major modification of the Construction & Demolition Waste Landfill north of town.

Authorized the superintendent to purchase a used pickup up to \$40,000.00 contingent upon the approval of two board members.



Courtesy Photo

Steer wrestler Cord Hesseltine dismounts off of his horse onto the racing steer at the Nebraska State Rodeo Association Finals held in Valentine, Nebraska, September 9-11.

Local Bulldogger Wins State Title

It's been a step-by-step process, but Arnold resident Cord Hesseltine finally accomplished a goal he's been reaching for ever since he was a little kid: to be a champion bulldogger.

Cord qualified to compete in steer wrestling at the Nebraska State Rodeo Association (NSRA) finals held in Valentine, September 9-11. He went in sitting

in 2nd place and ended up in 1st.

In Round 1 of the finals, he split places 1 & 2 in 5.7 seconds, in Round 2 he placed 2nd in 5.0 seconds, and in Round 3 placed 3rd with a time of 11.9. After the three rounds, his average was 23.5, putting him in 1st place in the finals and year-end standings. Cord was the only man at the finals to throw all

three steers.

Along with prize money of \$6,501.36 and buckles, he won the Champion Steer Wrestling saddle.

Over the weekend, Cord participated in the Mid-States Rodeo Finals in Broken Bow. Following are his results: Round 1, N/A; Round 2, 3rd place, 5.3; Round 3, 3rd place, 4.7; Average, 3rd place, 21.2.