The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

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Three-Peat Champions

Arnold's One-Act Team brings home State D-2 trophy



Photos/Jessica Tickle

On stage, at the Johnny Carson Theater, at Norfolk, the Arnold's One-Act Team claims their victory in the Class D-2 Championship competition on December 7.

By Janet Larreau

Arnold's one-act play "Rosie the Riveter" received all first place votes from the panel of three state judges at the State D-2 District competition held December 7 at the Johnny Carson Theater in Norfolk. Bringing home the State Championship trophy for the third year in a row wasn't something the coaches expected when working with the rookie team, but throughout the season they listened and followed direction.

"I am so proud of this team. Their work ethic is unmatched. They are young and inexperienced. Putting together a complex piece like "Rosie the ful!"; "I loved every aspect of Riveter" took an immense this show! What a privilege to amount of time, focus, and effort. They are amazing," said Head Coach Lana Cool. "Every single person on our cast and each other. Hours were spent cated to the Play Production

perfecting our main characters. Gracie Neth had the task of representing the team as the headline character and she worked incredibly hard.'

Outstanding Class D-2 State Play Production Performance Awards went to: Gracie Neth, Logan Recoy, Silas Cool, Rio Remund, Ella Cool, Eli Rogers, and Ivy Tullis.

Nebraska's Class D-2 Most Outstanding Female Performer went to Ella Cool.

The judges gave the following accolades to the play, set in the 1940s: "Great Job! Best overall! Beautiful beginning to end!"; "What a cast, not one weak character on stage."; "Ladies and Gents, this was wondersee you perform!"; "Such a poignant show! Today is Pearl Harbor Day! WOW!"

"My amazing co-coaches Leta onships. crew exhibited an impressive Connell and Holly Hornung are commitment to show and to incredibly talented and dedi-

Program and a huge part of Arnold's one-act successes. It is truly a team effort," said Lana.

"Our coaches are absolutely fantastic! They worked with everyone to make them the best actors possible, from the leads to the ensemble characters. Lana, Leta, and Holly all encouraged us, built our confidence, and gave us advice. The difference between a good show and a great show is the coach, and Lana really made us a great show. She never stopped working and made sure that we were the best we could be!" said Gracie Neth, who played the lead character, Rosie the Riveter.

Potter Dix received runner-up honors for the second year in a row. Chambers placed third.

Out of 45 one-act teams in the D-2 District, only six qualify to compete at the state champi-

Arnold Play Production successes:

2019: State Runner Up: "Hunchback of Notre Dame" 2020: State Champion: "Elephant's Graveyard"

2021: State Champion: "The Diviners"

2022: State Champion: "Rosie the Riveter"

One-Act: **Technical Matters**

Judges award 25 points for Technical when a play is performed, and Arnold has some talented individuals who step into help. The beautiful 40s themed set for "Rosie the Riveter" was the result of a collaboration of creative minds and skilled builders and artists. The starting point each year is determining what set pieces can be adapted, reworked, or repainted from previous shows. This year, a combination of past set pieces, basic black platforms, tall scenic backdrops, benches, and boxes were used to transform the set into a fac-

A meeting is held early in the process to get the wheels turning. For this play, the set didn't

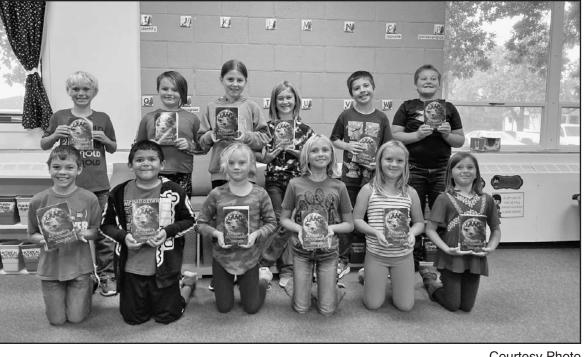
change much from scene to scene in the 30-minute show. With some rotating pieces and sign flips, the stage was transformed from a city scene to Eddie's Auto to Eddie's Airplane factory. The goal is to do it smooth and fast as part of the on-stage movement.

"We are incredibly lucky to have help from master carpenters Pat Recoy, Matt Baldwin, and Clay Mohr, as well as AHS art instructor Katie Berglund," said Coach Lana Cool. "The innovative ideas that come from these talented individuals are impressive. From designing rolling work stations, painting beautiful scenery, crafting a machine that will give the illusion of cutting a factory worker's arm, and designing the sign that flips and changes with each scene. Miss Berglund and her art class painted the set and incorporated authentic signs, colors, posters and patterns from the 40s. We are so grateful for the support from and collaboration with these talented individuals."

Arnold has a wonderful relationship with the costume director of the North Platte Community Playhouse. Sue McKain works with the team to design costumes that are authentic to each character and time period.

"Sue is a wonderful resource and does a great job. Once we have the costumes, Amanda Wehnes volunteers many hours helping with costume alterations and repairs. Because the clothes are mostly vintage, sometimes the seams are fragile and don't hold up well with the amount of big movements that happen on stage. Lana mentioned that it's a weekly occurrence to have a pile of costumes that need repairs. Amanda brings her sewing kit to practice and remedies all rips, tears and mishaps. Amanda is also a tremendous help with props and other details. She handmade name tags for each of the factory uniforms for the play.

Details matter, and Amanda is a great help," said Lana.



Courtesy Photo

Arnold third graders (front, I-r,) Brock Samuelson, Carlos Melendez, Emery Schacher, Aubrey Corbin, Klara Baldwin, Cora Leetch; (back, I-r) Weston McMichael, Emmah Clouse, Scout Evans, Kate Kulp, Parker Neth and Bo Dailey hold print dictionaries donated to the classroom by the Custer County

Words For Thirds Program Donates Print Dictionaries to Arnold Students

The benefits of thumbing betical order and how to locate through a print dictionary are often overlooked in an age when kids can punch a word into their computer or smartphone and have it spit back a definition. Print dictionaries are still a staple in classrooms and libraries around the country, and there's good reason. The mere act of flipping through its pages and discovering word after word (without waiting for a webpage to load) opens up a whole new world that can play a big hand in kids' school success. With print dic-

tionaries, students learn alpha-

a word.

Arnold third graders now have their very own print dictionary, thanks to the Custer County Grange - a local chapter of the State and National organization, consisting of people munity service projects.

that come together to do com-The Grange believes that education is important, so one way they like to help is by participating in the national program "Words For Thirds" which, applied on the local level, results

in the Custer County Grange

purchasing and giving a spe-

cially-designed student dictionary to each third grader in Custer County. They have been carrying out this activity for many years now.

"My students were so excited to receive their brand-new dictionaries. They couldn't wait to see what was inside. These dictionaries will stay at school and the students will be able to use them during different vocabulary activities and writing class. Eventually, they will take their dictionaries home for future

use," said Jamie Neth.



Ella Cool was awarded Most Outstanding Female Performer for her acting at the D-2 State Competition. Also pictured is Rio Remund.

APS Hosts Food Drive for Local Pantry

By Talli Martin

Sentinel Intern Times are tough right now with everything that is going on in our world and the little efforts can make all the difference. Arnold Public Schools has decided to help out the community and host a food drive for

the local food pantry. This year the pantry has had a shortage and is seeking generosity from the public. But this food drive isn't like most and has quite the

incentive for students. If Arnold students reach their

grand goal of 520 items, which averages out to each kid bringing approximately three items, then school will get out a day early for winter break. The food drive will run from now til the 16th of December, still giving you time to donate. If you do chose to donate, items at the top of the list would be laundry soap, toothpaste, shampoo, soups, and canned fruits and vegetables. But truly anything helps! Items can be dropped off at the school office.