

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

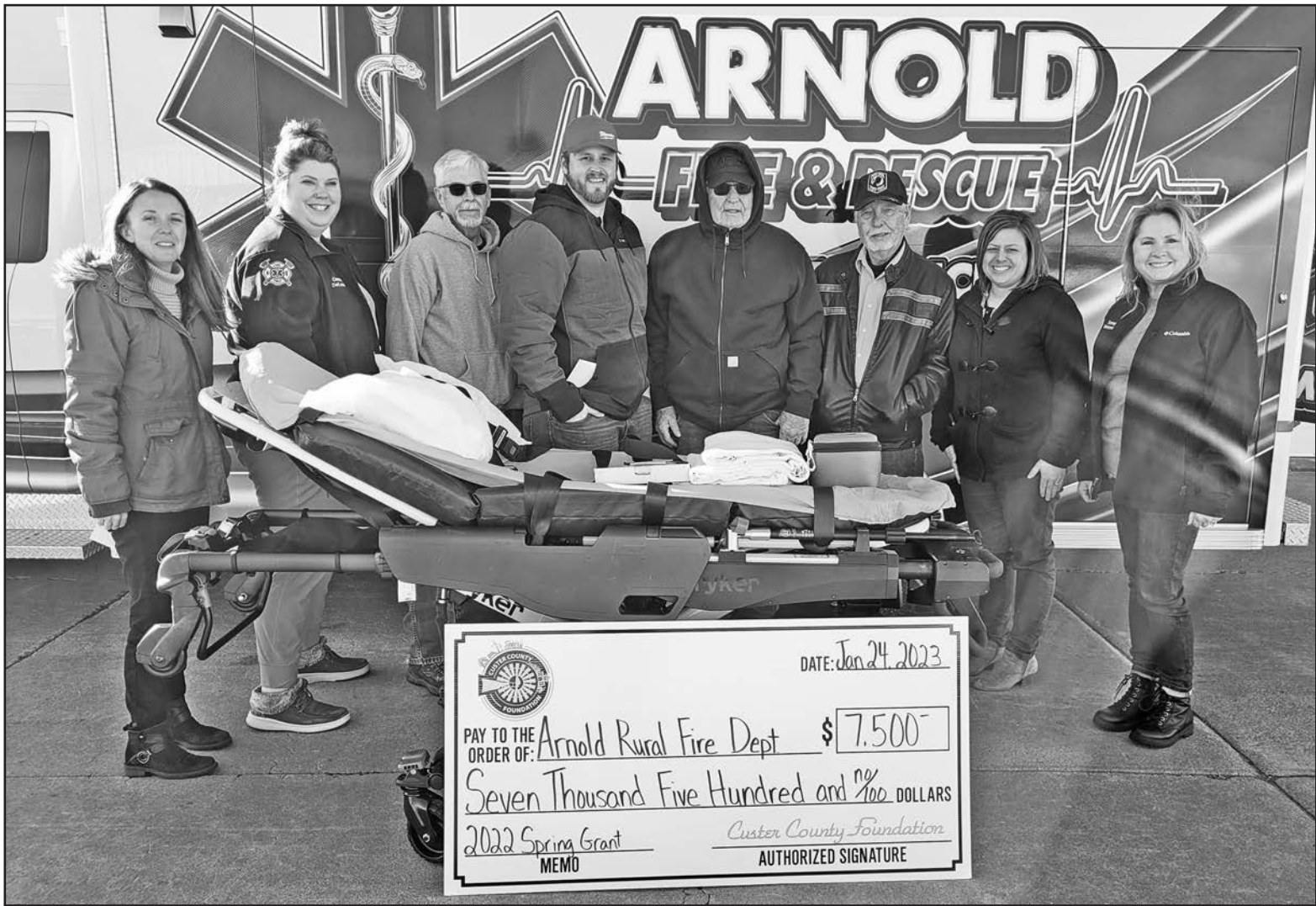
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Photo/Debbie Connelly

Gathering last week to celebrate the purchase of a Stryker Power-Load Cot for the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department were: Custer County Foundation Executive Director Lindsey Cook; AVFD member Cassidy DeLosh; Arnold Rural Fire District member Mitch Gieser, AVFD Fire Chief Andrew Tickle, Rural Fire District members Larry Ross and Harvey Foran, Farm Credit Union and Arnold Community Foundation representative Jen Dalrymple, and AVFD Rescue Captain Tammy Weinman.

AVFD Achieves Goal of Purchasing Stryker Power-Load Cot With Several Grants

Arnold Rural Fire District pays remaining balance.

Several organizations have made it possible for the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a state-of-the-art Stryker Power-Load Cot.

The Stryker is a powered ambulance cot that uses a battery-powered hydraulic system to effectively raise and lower the new cot at the touch of a button. With the AVFD's old cot, each lift posed a risk for caregiver injury. The power-load cot has proven to reduce spinal loading, resulting in reduced injuries to EMS personnel, workers compensation cost and increased recruitment and retention. The cot has a head and foot end lift and grip section. The foot end controls are duplicated on both upper and lower bars to accommodate operators of all sizes. It also has dual wheel locks that help keep the cot in place for safer patient transfers.

The fire department knew this was an expensive piece of equipment, so grants were written by Tammy Weinman in March and sent to the SORC Winter Party, Custer County Foundation, and Arnold Community Foundation.

“While talking to Jen Dalrymple, with the Arnold Community Foundation, she encouraged me to fill out a grant with Farm Credit Services of America's Working Here Fund for \$10,000.00. Jen filled out a local Farm Credit grant for us for \$1,000.00,” said Tammy.

On March 22, Dan Duncan notified Tammy that the Winter Party was donating \$16,000.00 towards the power-load cot. In May, Jen notified the department that it had received a \$1,000.00 grant from Farm Credit for the cot project. Notice was then received from the Custer County Foundation and the Arnold Community Foundation that the department would receive \$7,500.00 from each organization. In July, the department was notified that it was the recipient of the \$10,000.00 grant from Farm Credit Services of America.

“We understand the importance of keeping our communities safe and appreciate the efforts of the Arnold Fire Department,” said Tami Campbell, regional vice president of retail operations at FCS America's Broken Bow office. The grant from Farm Credit Services of America Working Here Fund is used for rural disaster relief/essential services. All donations totaled \$42,000. “We can't say enough about these organization and their generosity,” said Tammy. The cot project totaled

\$57,070.72 and the Arnold Rural Fire District paid for the remaining balance.

“We would like to thank the rural fire board for allowing us to take on this project, being supportive and allowing us to equip ourselves to better serve the community. The cot is an upgrade to the state safety standards, allows for better patient comfort during transport and provides safety for our department members when transporting patients. The new ambulance, having a 4-wheel drive chassis, made the old cot difficult to load and the new cot is made to accommodate that,” said AVFD Chief Andrew Tickle.

The department has wanted a power load cot for several purposes. The cot eliminates the need to steer the cot into and out of the ambulance. It helps minimize patient drops by supporting the cot until the wheels are on the ground. The cot also meets dynamic crash test standards for maximizing occupant safety. This power load cot will create a safer environment for Arnold's EMS providers and the patient. Patients will have a better sense of security. The new cot will help eliminate injury to personnel during loading and unloading and will make the job of EMS providers

easier and safer. It will also allow for providers to focus more on patient care, rather than worrying about injury. It will also improve patient experience by smoothly raising and lowering the cot.

“This cot is so smooth compared to the old cot,” said Tammy. “Giving greater support stability and supporting bariatric patients are some other great features of this cot. Right now, with the old cot we had no comfortable way to transport bariatric patients. The weight capacity for this cot is 700 pounds and has a wider mattress with expandable side rails. Bariatric patients will be more comfortable during transport and it will be much safer system.”

On Monday, January 9, Chad Sitorius with Fyr-Tek in Gothenburg, installed the new cot and power-load system. The fire department members trained on Wednesday, January 12, with Stryker representative Scott Pufahl from Kansas City.

“The Arnold Fire Department members would like to thank all of the organizations that made it possible for the department to purchase this piece of equipment. We are always very appreciative of all the support we receive from everyone!” said Tammy.

Participation In Community Opinion Survey Is Needed

Deadline to submit is February 10

How do you as a resident feel the community could improve? What are your concerns regarding services? Would you support future growth through applying for grants?

Your chance to express your opinion is now and it won't come again for maybe another ten years. All it takes is 20 or 30 minutes of your time filling out a Community Opinion Survey that is available both electronically and in hard copy.

But the deadline to submit yours is looming.

With just a few surveys submitted as of last week, the Village of Arnold mass mailed a reminder to all residents of the town that the survey is underway. At least 100 surveys need to be submitted as part of a Comprehensive Planning program that will determine the future of the town.

The notice gave details of why the survey is so important. If you don't think you can make a difference, please read on:

An essential activity and process of conducting a Comprehensive Planning Program is conducting both a Community Opinion Survey and a Workforce Housing Needs Survey.

Comprehensive planning is important in regard to documenting existing property and infrastructure conditions and planning for the future growth and development of the community. The Comprehensive Planning Program will include an update of the community's current Plan, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, and a Community Housing Study. Each survey will identify the most critical issues associated with land development/use and preservation, housing needs, economic development, and the wants of local citizenry for a ten-year planning period.

Both surveys are available in electronic or paper format. Links to the survey can be found on arnoldne.org website, Village of Arnold Facebook page, Arnold Economic Development Facebook Page, or paper format at the Village office. You can also download a pdf version to print your survey at home by using online links.

Surveys are to be completed online or returned to the Village of Arnold Office by Friday, February 10.

Sign Up Now for Arnold's Chili Cook-off

Teams are encouraged to sign up now for the 34th Annual Chili Cook-Off set for Saturday, February 25, at the community center. Space is limited, so your early sign-up will guarantee you a spot in the competition.

Contact Allison Goodenow for any questions and team registration at 308-870-3387 or stop in at First State Insurance to pick up a form.

Boys, Girls Are MNAC Champions

Both the South Loup boys' and girls' basketball teams came away with the championship trophies at the conference tournament held last week.

The girls are now 11-5 on the season, and the boys are at 14-2 overall.

The teams will be heading to Mullen on Friday with games starting at 4:30 p.m. Central Time.

Turn to page 4 to read Amanda Wehnes' full report.



Three SORC Winter Party (SWP) members who help determine where funds go met with the Arnold EMTs during last year's open road challenge to present them with a \$16,000.00 donation toward the new power-load cot. Pictured are: back row, Andrew Tickle, Chad Christensen (SWP), Aaron Anderson (SWP), Grady Lashley, Gregg Tickle, Rudy Vickers, Robbi Smith and Brock Dailey; front row: Jane Fieldgrove, April Tickle, Heather Hagler, Cassidy DeLosh, Dan Duncan (SWP) and Tammy Weinman. Weinman said Chad, Aaron and Dan are always willing to help with any need the fire department has.