

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Photo by Tyler Kersting, videographer

Videographer Justin Cheney (being used as a grip to hold a reflector for this shoot), and producer Brandee Weber interview Joe Shown for a segment of “Nebraska Stories - Sandhills Speed” on Judkin’s Hill during the 2022 SORC. “We talked about the race. I tried to highlight the Arnold area, because I think it’s terrific,” said Joe.

Sandhills Open Road Challenge Featured in “Nebraska Stories” Premier

Episode airs February 9 on Nebraska Public Media

By Janet Larreau

The Sandhills Open Road Challenge will be featured in the new season of the award-winning, local television series “Nebraska Stories,” premiering at 8:00 p.m. CT, Thursday, February 9, and repeating at 9:00 p.m. CT Monday, February 13, on Nebraska Public Media and at 8:30 a.m. CT, February 17 on World.

The episode opens in Arnold, following racers from across the country as they speed along a scenic stretch in the Sandhills Open Road Challenge.

Producer Brandee Weber said she first heard of the SORC a couple of years ago when Rick in the mailroom suggested that she do a story on it. She kept it in the back of her mind until she could figure out a way to incorporate it into a program. Early last year, she got a program greenlit on Classic Cars – now called “Classic Car Love Stories” that will premier on Nebraska Public Media on Feb-

ruary 26 at 7:00 p.m. Central.

“I got a hold of Joe Shown and told him I was working on this program. I let him know I would like to feature the SORC and asked if he had any Nebraska participants with a classic car and a good story, and he told me about Lyle and Nick Edberg. After talking to Lyle, I knew they were the perfect duo to feature in the program,” she said.

Brandee knew that covering the 2022 SORC would be quite the undertaking, with multiple days of shooting, two videographers, an audio engineer, a drone, 360 degree cameras and GoPros to try to capture the event from as many angles and places as possible, so Brandee asked the “Nebraska Stories” producers if she could produce a segment for their program, along with producing one for her own. That way, they could get more bang for their buck.

“They were thrilled with the proposal and said the story had been on their list for even longer than I’d had it on mine, but they hadn’t had the oppor-

tunity to make it happen yet. So, I’m happy to have the “Sandhills Speed” segment on “Nebraska Stories” and to have another angle of the story in “Classic Car Love Stories,” she said.

Brandee is from Wyoming, so she’s made many a trip through the heart of Nebraska over the years. Plus, she’s produced other programs that have brought her through the area – most recently, “SADDLE UP Nebraska’s Working Horses” that premiered last March on Nebraska Public Media.

“I love the Sandhills,” she said. “The people of Nebraska and the Sandhills, specifically, are so nice and generous and amazingly hospitable, and patient. I could go on and on. The people of Arnold and Dunning and all the other nearby communities proved to be all of those things and more. The sunrises and sunsets are stunning and something I always try to capture every time the opportunity arises.

“I was truly impressed with

what a well-oiled machine the SORC events were, from the safety measures, opening doors, tightening seatbelts, dumping out extra water bottles, checking tires, etc., before the race itself, to drivers’ safety meetings, volunteers with walkies all long the course, and precision timing of each car’s start. It was all impressive and ran amazingly smoothly, at least from an outsider’s perspective. I loved capturing the license plates of cars from all over the country and I loved the variety of cars, from a mini cooper and corvettes and everything in between. I also appreciate the folks from the SORC working with us to keep us and the drivers safe, but while also allowing access so we could tell the story in the best way possible.”

Enjoyed by viewers across the state for its feature-based, character-driven storytelling, “Nebraska Stories” covers art, science, history, sports, performance, nature and more.

Lower Loup NRD Public Hearing Draws Large Crowd

Proposed changes to Lower Loup NRD rules and regulations drew attendees from across the District to a series of recent public meetings, and a public hearing.

At public meetings on Jan. 20 in Genoa, and in Ord and Broken Bow on Jan. 26, farmers, ranchers, commercial fertilizer dealers, agronomists, political figures, and others in attendance heard from Lower Loup NRD experts who presented scientific data showing the negative effects of applying commercial nitrogen fertilizer in the fall.

Application of anhydrous ammonia and other commercial fertilizer after harvest is a common agricultural practice in parts of the Lower Loup NRD. Charged with protecting water quality, the agency’s Board of Directors is considering a rule change to prohibit fall application of commercial nitrogen on irrigated acres district wide. The median nitrate level in Nebraska has doubled since 1978 and continues to climb, increasing health risks for residents exposed to nitrates in drinking water.

Fertilizer applied after harvest but before spring planting is exposed to unpredictable weather for six months or more without any crops to take it up. Rain events, or snowmelt fueled by warmer temperatures, can wash this fertilizer into streams and rivers, or deeper into the soil profile where it migrates out of the root zone and increasingly closer to subterranean water supplies. Surface water and groundwater are both important sources of drinking water for Nebraskans, including those with domestic wells, and residents who rely on municipal water systems.

Russell Callan, General Manager of the Lower Loup NRD, said that research shows that applying nitrogen during the growing season, or close to it, is best. “We don’t want to stifle growth. We want our producers to be successful,” Callan said. “Part of that success lies in the more efficient use of chemical fertilizers that can increase yield exponentially when used correctly and applied at the right time, or become money wasted when those chemicals wash away or leach into our finite water supply and threaten the health of our family, friends, and neighbors. It just makes good sense to put nitrogen fertilizer in the ground when the plants are there to use it.”

For more information, visit www.LLNRD.org or call (308) 728-3221. The Lower Loup NRD is located at 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, 68862.



Arnold pre-schoolers (from left) Cali Edwards, Brooks McMichael, Reese Hagler, Booker Kulp, and Graysen Schacher work on Valentine’s Day crafts at daycare.

What does love mean?

Arnold pre-schoolers have to think a bit.

Arnold pre-schoolers have had Valentine’s Day on their minds, doing crafts and contemplating what the word actually means.

“I asked them what love means. It kind of went over their head, so I asked them a couple of questions,” said their teacher, Emma Stelling.

There was a lot of shrugging of the shoulders when they answered the first question.

Brynley said, “Um, I don’t know. I love you”...Barrett said, “It means it makes you happy”... “I don’t know. I love Axten,” said Quort...After thinking a bit, Everleigh said, “They are so fun”... and Bexley responded with, “When you kiss your mom and dad.” Zicah simply said, “Married.”

When asked “What do you love the most in the entire world,” these little guys had an easier time.

Brynley said, “I love everything!” Barrett said, “Miss Stelling!” Everleigh loves her mom and dad, Brooks loves Xbox, Uriah loves swimming in the pool, Bexley loves spaghetti, Kassi loves snow, Riggins loves animals, Trevor loves mom and dad, Zicah loves snow, Cali loves her dad, Quort loves Axten and his mom, Belamy loves a train, Axten loves Brooks, Clara loves mermaids, Myah loves her mom and dog, Reese loves a pool and a hotel, Booker loves when Santa Claus comes, Graysen loves a hotel, Zoyer loves fire trucks, Rickey loves animals, and J loves going to the park.

It just goes to show that expressing love is much easier than defining it - at any age.