

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

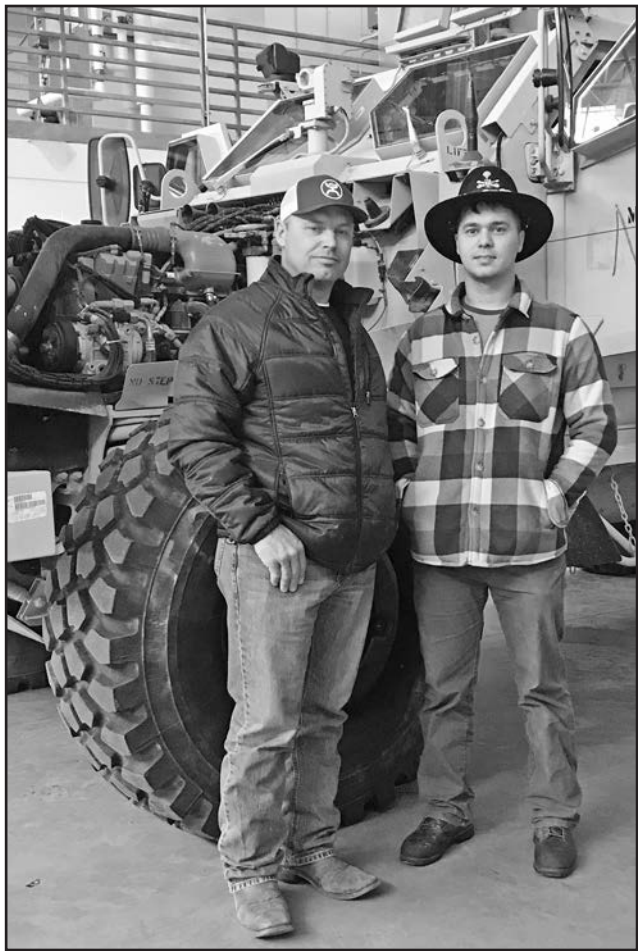
CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Soldiers With Local Ties Deployed to Middle East



Eric Nelson and son Brenden Rivers.



Gary Halstead and son David Halstead.



Melva Geiser and grandson Zachary Mitera.

*Thank you*  
**- FOR YOUR SERVICE -**

## Families attend Send-Off Ceremony

By Janet Larreau

The Nebraska Army National Guard hosted a send-off ceremony to honor soldiers and families of C Troop, 1-134th Cavalry Squadron as the soldiers embarked on their mission. The event, held on February 5, at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, honored 99 soldiers – three of whom have ties to Arnold. Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts and Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska adjutant general, all gave remarks. After the ceremony, it was an emotional time, as the soldiers hugged their families and friends and said their goodbyes before boarding buses for the airport and departing by plane to Texas for several weeks of additional training for their mission.

A large group of family members were there to send off Staff Sergeant E-6 David Halstead, who joined the National Guard in the spring of 2007. His father, Gary, who was in the Guard for 22 years before retiring, said Troop C has been training hard for the last six months, doing a lot of extra drills in preparation for the deployment. Another son, James has been in the Guard for 17 years. Both Dave and James were deployed back in the summer of 2010 and were gone almost a year. “It is very hard to say goodbye to your children when they go off on a deployment. We are very proud of him and the guys going with him, but it is hard. Spec. Brenden Rivers, son of Eric Nelson, joined the Guards in 2017 before graduating from A.H.S. in 2018. He served one month in South Korea in 2019. His father served in the Army

and then in the Reserve Guard for a short time. Brenden’s mother also served in the Army. “Of course we are proud of him,” said Lisa Nelson, who attended the ceremony with Eric. “We knew what he signed up for. It was something he wanted to do and he was excited.” Zachary Mitera, son of Melanie (Geiser) and Jason Mitera of Omaha, and grandson of Melva Geiser of Arnold, joined the Army National Guard two years ago. Now, at the young age of 20, Mitera walked to the bus with a look of determination and his head held high. He comes from a long line of family who have served. “He was proud of what he was doing. He is 100 percent willing to serve and I’m very proud of him to want to serve his country. I am so thankful that these are some of Nebraska’s finest

individuals,” said Melva Geiser. The squadron’s Federal mission will be to conduct site security, convoy security, and area security in support of Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East. They will main-

tain the capability and flexibility to respond to contingencies throughout the Arabian Peninsula in order to maintain lines of communication and infrastructure.

## Weinman Is Champion of Custer County Spelling Bee



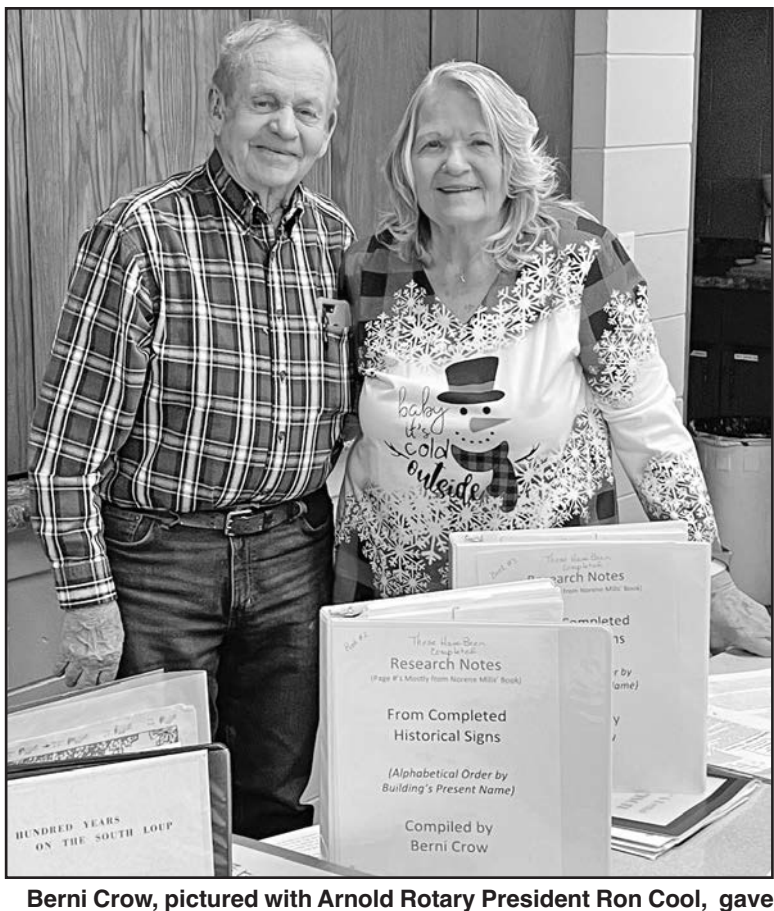
APS Photo

Delanie Weinman (left) was declared Champion of the Custer County Spelling Bee, with Elijah Cool (right) placing 3rd.

ANSLEY - Delanie Weinman came out on top by beating over 55 other students in the Custer County Spelling Bee. Weinman was on of ten Arnold students who participated in the Custer County Spelling Bee in Ansley on February 8th. There were two rounds of 25 words each in the written test all the students took. None of the students from across the county spelled all the words correctly. However, Eli Brast of Arnold got 49 of the first 50 words correct and Danielle Duponcheel got 48 of them right. Nine of the 10 Arnold students moved on to the third round of 25 words. The list definitely got harder and this weeded the participants down to the final eleven for the oral spelling part of the competition. At this point, Delanie Weinman, Eli Brast, and Elijah Cool were going on to compete for

the title. Five of the contestants went out on the first try narrowing the field to 6. Then three contestants, including Eli dropped out after spelling a second time. By the time the field was reduced to the top three spellers, the students verbally spelled three times. Elijah was the first to drop with the word “purported.” He ended up with a third-place plaque. Delanie and Julian from Broken Bow continued to duke it out each spelling twice more, and then both misspelled “abstain.” They both missed “papal.” Then it came down to spelling the word “circumstantial” and Delanie was crowned the winner of the 2023 Custer County Spelling Bee and given a beautiful 1st place plaque. She is now eligible to compete in Omaha at the Omaha Sports Commission’s regional spelling bee on Saturday, March 18th, 2023 on the UNO campus.

## History of Arnold Rotary Club Told on New Marker



Berni Crow, pictured with Arnold Rotary President Ron Cool, gave a presentation on her five year progress of the Rotary historical signs at a recent meeting.

Historical marker project coordinator Berni Crow has researched the history of the Arnold Rotary Club dating back from 1929 to the present. The marker reads as follows:

**Arnold Rotary Club – March 27, 1929**

The first Nebraska Rotary Club to organize dated back to

1910, when a Lincoln club received the first charter. The Lincoln club sponsored Kearney Rotary which was organizing in 1918. It later became the third Nebraska Club. One of the early highlights for the Kearney club was a visit from Chief Justice William Taft, who later became President in 1941. The second Nebraska club to

charter was Hastings Noon club in 1919. The club was honored by the presence of Rotary’s Founding father Paul Harris who spoke at Kearney State College. On the 27th day of March in 1929, 24 charter members formed the Arnold Rotary Club. Dr. Frank Burnham was the first president for the newly formed club. Their organization meeting was held in one of the classrooms at Arnold High School. The new members were accompanied by nineteen Broken Bow Rotary members. The group was treated to a very nice dinner provided by the Home Economics class. The following list names 23 of the original charter members: Jack Stewart, Glen Perkins, John Priess, John Jameson, Frank Koubek, U.A. Brown, Jud Schoenthal, Emil Benthack, Phil Houghton, Dr. Frank Burnham, Dr. Joseph Dunn, Dr. Glen Mahan, Frank Alexander, Hawley Wehrley, T.L. Jones, George Cunningham, Alva Worrell, Sinclair Lewis, Charlie Buck, Bob Harris, Otis Newkirk, Dewey Dunaway, and Leonard Steberg. A week later, the Broken Bow Rotary Club hosted the Arnold Rotary members to a fine banquet at the new Arrow Hotel. The new Arnold Rotary Club was also welcomed at the home of Dr. Frank Burnham (Rotary President) and his wife. According to an article in the Sentinel, a wonderful meal was served in their spacious home, inviting all new Arnold Rotarians and spouses. Mrs.

See Rotary Marker, Page 6.