

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 40

## Interact Member Has Set Sights on Arnold Lake

Ethan Furne working on Revitalizing Fountains Project

By Janet Larreau

The Arnold Recreation Area Lake currently has a vast amount of vegetation growth and lack of water circulation. The unfortunate consequences include a foul smell, overgrown algae and moss that inhibit the use of the lake and surrounding camping area for both visitors and those that yearn to use the area regularly. The overgrowth can cause problems for the fish, including decreased oxygen supply, too much cover for small fish, larger fish not being able to feed, and some algae release toxins that are not only harmful to the fish, but also to pets and humans.

When Arnold sophomore Ethan Furne joined the newly formed Rotary Interact service club and needed a project, he set his sights on improving the condition of the lake by raising funds to purchase aerator fountains.

“I love to fish, kayak, and swim at the lake, but because of all the algae growth, it was becoming very hard to enjoy those activities,” he said. “As an

interactor, I have taken on the leadership responsibility of the lake project. Our goal is to restore the lake to its glory and create a natural utopia.”

His project, “Arnold Revitalizing Fountains,” will literally benefit thousands who visit the lake each year.

Ethan researched the cost of aerating fountains. The cost of the fountains – one large and two small – totaled \$11,574.74, but would be well worth it. The fountains will provide several benefits, including reducing algae growth, improving water circulation, getting rid of the foul smell, and bringing in more campers to the area for swimming and fishing for several years to come.

“The Arnold Lake is shaped in a way where one fountain won’t do the trick. It has a large middle portion requiring a three horsepower fountain that circulates 800 gallons of water per minute and the two 3/4 horsepower fountains in the budget will go in the corners of the lake,” said Ethan.

Ethan received approval from the Village Board to provide electricity and fountain and chemical maintenance by the



Photo/Debbie Connelly

As leader of the Arnold Revitalizing Fountains project, Rotary Interact member Ethan Furne is excited for summer to arrive, when three aerating fountains will spring to life and clear the lake of its problem of vegetation growth and lack of water circulation.

employees. This was a key piece of continued funding that he would need.

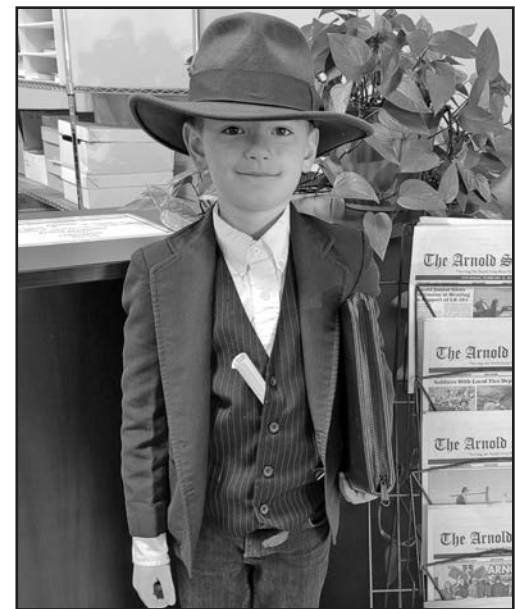
After extensive research with the Nebraska Game and Parks Aquatic Division, the first step in doing all of the work with the Village employees and the Village board, will be to purchase Cutrine Plus Granular Form – an algicide that is perfect in killing off filamentous and planktonic algae. Cutrine Plus is non-harmful to fish

when distributed in the lake in periods of time.

Through the grant writing process, \$8,250.00 has been raised from three sources: The Arnold Community Foundation, Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation, and Arnold Rotary. Other grants have been applied for and Ethan is waiting for those results. Donations will always be accepted by calling Ethan at 308-636-6014. The proposed date of imple-

mentation is Earth Day, April 22, 2023, and Ethan is hoping that the fountains will be installed in late June or early July, at the latest.

“I am very excited about how this project has come along. In December it was a dream and now it’s becoming a reality. There is still a long process ahead, but the end result will be amazing,” said Ethan.



Titus Coleman was ready for work last week, creating a comic for *The Sentinel*.

## 8-Year-Old Bound to Be a Writer

*“Once upon a time there was a deer in the forest. He wondered when he would ever find a mate. He looked deeper in the forest than he had ever gone. He found a doe and three bucks. All the bucks were fighting with locked antlers. After a while, all the bucks left except for Pointy. Then he asked the doe her name. ‘Graceful,’ she replied. Eventually they had a fawn together. All the animals in the woods heard the news and stopped by to see the little fawn.”*

*“What shall we name him?” asked Graceful. ‘How about Deery the first?’ said Pointy.”*

There’s a fledgling writer with a big imagination in our midst. The above introduction to the character Deery was written in 2020, when Titus Dean Coleman was just six years old. That big imagination turned into a series of stories about Derry and his adventures.

“I wanted to make a character that was somewhat like Bambi, so I decided to make Bambi his grandfather. Deery was born to Bambi’s son,” said Titus.

Now 8-years-old and *almost* 9, Titus has already written five Deery stories, with plans to write more. Each story takes about a week to write. His first story at age six was a “A Deer’s Life,” followed by “Life for a Deer,” “Deery’s New Love,” “Young Deery Adventures” and “Deery and the Time Warp.” All are several pages long with illustrations, and are bound with plenty of staples. In between his last two books, Titus created a comic book titled “Deery and Bambi.”

When he first started writing, he needed his mom’s help, but this year Titus started writing on his own.

“Sometimes mom helps with ideas, but mainly I tell her what I want written and she writes it for me,” he said.

Titus, who is homeschooled, usually writes stories while he is in school, but the stories are not part of his schoolwork. He says ideas for his stories don’t just suddenly appear – he has to think on them for a while.

As far as why he writes, Titus said, “I think that it is fun. I like coming up with the ideas and adventures. And it improves the characters because you have to work at it to have a good story.”

Does Titus have plans to become a writer someday?

“Probably not a comic writer, but maybe books or for the newspaper. If not a writer, I would like to be a hired hand on a ranch,” he said.

Titus is the son of Aaron and Sara Coleman.

*Editor’s note: Turn to page 2 to read one of Titus’ comic creations.*

## Majority of Senior Class Live In the World of Ag

By Janet Larreau

Talli Martin, contributing

Agriculture is the backbone of America’s rural economy and is the heart and soul of our home state – Nebraska. The traditions of the past are only continuing because of the driven youth who are stepping up to the plate to continue their family’s legacies, as well as taking on the daunting task of putting food on America’s tables.

The A.H.S. Class of 2023 could be described as an “ag class,” with the majority working behind the scenes on their family’s farm or ranch.

“I’ve grown quite a passion for beef production, which has led me to planning to pursue a degree in agriculture communications,” said Annalee Starr, whose family are 5th generation ranchers.

Starr wants to use her degree to advocate for cattlemen across the globe. She is not the only Arnold senior who wants to give back to the market that has shaped her into the leader she is today.

Lance Jones plans to earn a degree in agricultural business in hopes of “keeping his family’s ranch thriving for years to come.”

Clay Witthuhn said that growing up on a ranch has helped him distinguish a strong passion for veterinary medicine, as

well as a strong love for helping animals.

Silas Cool also wants to pursue an ag degree after graduating.

“I want to learn more about agricultural economics and contribute to the business that takes a deep place in my heart,” he said.

At the end of the day, it doesn’t matter whether or not a student is seeking to pursue a degree in agriculture or drifting away from their roots. They will always have recollections of the past and hold close to their hearts the valuable lessons they learned along the way.

“Working on a ranch has taught me the importance of a good work ethic and discipline, which will help me when entering the workforce,” said Devin Peterson.

Jones said his experiences taught him to appreciate the little things in life. Starr added that people involved in the industry must possess traits like strong determination, while overcoming the many challenges that come with that job.

Talli Martin, whose family has deep ties to agriculture, said not everyone is cut out for this life. She has seen it first-hand, as her father and grandfather own their own trucking business, hauling producer’s cattle to grass, to and from the sale barn or to the packing plant. They go the extra mile for the animals, as well as to support

their family.

Her other grandparents have owned and operated their family ranch that has been in the family for the last 68 years. Talli said they bend over backwards for their animals and express to her the true meaning of having substance, strength, and courage.

“I have so many puzzle pieces that make up my compelling story, but it is the everyday lessons that my family has taught me that stand out the most. My ambitious work ethic, as well as character, stems from their influences and for that I am proud of them!” she said.

Talli went on to say, “The people in agriculture stand out to me among others in a crowd, simply because of their true acts of selflessness. The people of America who have an agriculture related background never know what challenges they may face day to day, but these people continue to put in the work – day in and day out – through their great resilience. It doesn’t matter if they are feeling triumphant on top of the mountain or struggling at rock bottom. They can’t just call in sick and take the day off. Farmers and ranchers have to not only think about what is best for their animals and their family’s livelihood, but also have to think about how their actions are impacting their community, state, and the globe.”



Courtesy photo

Annalee Starr helps her father, Scott, a 5th generation rancher, ultrasound a cow on their ranch. Annalee is just one of several Arnold seniors who are involved in ag production at home.