

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Nine Receive Diplomas at A.H.S. Commencement



Photos/Jessica Tickle

The Class of 2023 smile as they listen to Mr. Morgan’s welcome to all who attended the 110th A.H.S. graduation on Saturday, May 13. From left are: Clay Witthuhn, Annalee Starr, Halie Recoy, Devin Peterson, Talliana Martin, Johnathan Lamphear, Lance Jones, MacKenzie Garen, and Silas Cool. (Below) The graduates file out of the auditorium with their ticket to a bright future.

By Amanda Wehnes

Gratitude was the theme of the day for the nine members of the Arnold Public School Class of 2023 during their commencement ceremony on Saturday.

Salutatorian Silas Cool thanked the faculty, coaches, and staff at APS, community members, and his family for helping him achieve his goals during the past 12 years. He expressed special gratitude for retiring custodian Ruth Tullis, for taking a special interest in student’s lives and supporting them through good and bad days.

“Her cheerful attitude, hard work ethic, and good-natured teasing always made our days in school a little bit brighter - and cleaner,” he said.

Valedictorian Lance Jones voiced his thanks to the Arnold community, Bobcat Nation, and those at APS for welcoming him and his family when they transferred from Stapleton six years ago.

“As the last Jones to come through this place for a while, I’d also like to thank this school, the South Loup community for welcoming us Joneses and treating us like family,” he said.

APS Superintendent Joel Morgan also gave his thanks to the class for being on time for the ceremony on Saturday. The class became notorious for setting their own schedules, he joked.

“The class where time is suggestive - What time does school start? Eight-ish,” Morgan said, among chuckles from the

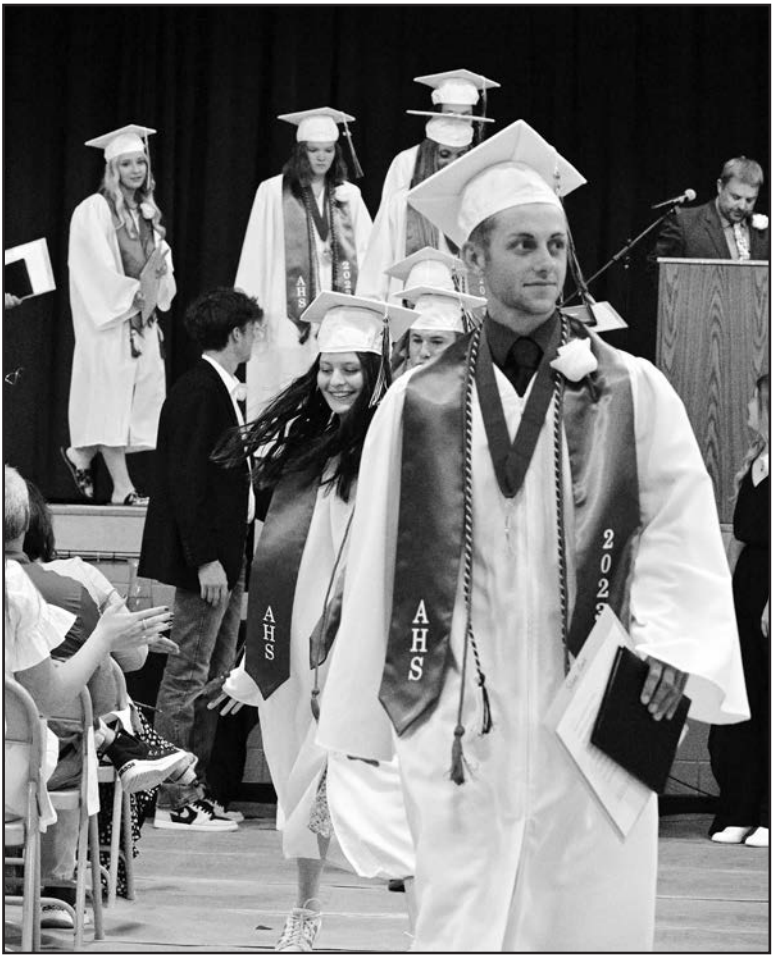
crowd. “How many days a week do you go to school? Five-ish.”

All joking aside, Morgan had some pearls of wisdom for the class, too.

“Your future isn’t about TikTok challenges. It’s about challenging yourself and those around you to be better and make a difference.”

Diplomas were awarded by school board president Duane Bowers, with a special presentation by board vice president Joe Cool, of a diploma to his son Silas Cool.

Class colors are white and Arabian teal, class flowers are white roses, and class motto is “Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but of playing a poor hand well.” by Robert Louis Stevenson.



National EMS Week Is May 21-27

Local EMTs respond to high number of calls since May 2022

By Janet Larreau

“What would we do without them?” Almost every resident in the Arnold community and the surrounding rural area has spoken these words as they witness Arnold’s EMTs at work. The training to become an Emergency Medical Technician and the continued training that follows is the very definition of “commitment.” There are currently 10 EMTs serving this area, and an 11th volunteer is set to officially join the team come June 1st. Since May of 2022 to present, these volunteers have answered what is described as “a high number” of 74 calls. As National EMS Week approaches, May 21-27, Arnold’s EMTs are recognized in this issue, asking them why they made the commitment to give their time in service to others.

Arnold EMT Captain Tammy Weinman answered the call 23 years ago.

“I admired the EMTs in Arnold for a long time,” she said. “In 1998 my husband, Darren, joined the fire department. In 1999, Nancy Cool was teaching an EMT class in Broken Bow, and I decided to join the fire department and take the EMT class. Nancy became my mentor and helped develop my love for EMS.

“EMS is advancing so quickly,

and staying on top of those advancements can be a challenge at times. It takes a lot of time and training. I am lucky to serve with some of the best and most dedicated EMTs in the county and we challenge each other to be the best we can for our community.”

Andrew Tickle, who also serves as AVFD fire chief, said, “I like to help people and give back to the community, and this is one way I can do that. It becomes very time consuming and difficult at times, but I think if you look at it all and talk to the people that volunteer on fire departments and EMS, it is in their blood, so it is something that comes naturally for them. It is something you can’t push someone to do. It comes from their heart, and they really care about helping others. In a way, it is rewarding to be able to help people and be on the department. It becomes a family.”

For Rudy Vickers, memories of EMTs responding to calls at his home was the deciding factor. “When I moved back to Arnold 20 years ago, I felt like I needed to join the team to help better serve our community,” he said.

Please turn to page 8 to see other responses from all of Arnold’s EMTs in the community’s salute to National EMS Week: “Where Emergency Care Begins.”

Water/Sewer Rates Will Increase After Vote by Village Board

By Janet Larreau

Village Board Members voted to increase water and sewer rates at their regular meeting on May 8th. Discussion on whether or not to increase the rates began with the presentation of a Water and Sewer Rate Study, conducted by the Nebraska Rural Water Association. The water rate comparison of systems 400-600 populations (40 towns) showed

that Arnold charges a \$15.00 customer charge (\$0.85 per thousand gallons), compared with the average customer charge of \$23.15 (\$2.07 per thousand gallon). Sewer Rate Comparison of systems 400-600 population (14 towns) showed that Arnold’s customer charge is \$12.00 (\$1.00 per thousand gallons) compared to the average \$21.89 customer charge (\$2.01 per thousand gallons). The gallons are based on average of the water consumption billed in December, January

and February.

The Clerk said that there are two upcoming projects for the water department, including Water Improvement Project 2022-1 and 2022-2 at a cost of \$111,680.00 and Water Improvement Project 2023-1 at a cost of \$139,646.00.

A major expenditure for the sewer department includes installing Cured In Place Pipe Lining (CIPP). This lining is a method of trenchless pipe re-

See Rates Increase, Page 2



Elementary Field Day Closes Out Another Year

Jeremiah Morgan tackles the dummy at the end of the obstacle course at Monday’s elementary track & field day. (Inset) Colter Dailey is in the lead in the 100 meter run with the 1st grade boys. Blankets and heavy coats were called for, as the kids competed in several events in the cold, damp weather, and closed out the 2022-23 school year with lunch at the field.