

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Restoring and Remembering

Historical society plans June 25 fundraiser to transform old Archie’s Cafe into museum.

The Cornerstone Campaign to rebuild, restore, and revitalize the once vibrant corner of Walnut Street and Highway 92 is underway! To signify this important undertaking, the Arnold Area Historical Society will be hosting an old-fashioned chicken and noodle dinner and ice cream social fundraiser. Join them at the American Legion on Sunday, June 25 from 11:00 to 2:00. This kick-off event will give you a chance to see and hear about the committee’s vision to transform the old Archie’s Café into

an interactive museum, preserving our hometown’s history and capturing stories unique to our area. The event will include a sneak preview of the building with committee members on hand to answer questions about the plans and challenges of the restoration. In addition, a novel treat at this event will be the opportunity to tour Darrell Sheet’s self-made museum. Explore his wonderful collection highlighting the tools and history of the haying industry in a building he purchased in 1998

and restored to look like the original 1907 Arnold Mercantile. As a participant in this year’s Give 4 Custer County event [hosted by the Custer County Foundation], the restoration fundraiser will also receive a proportional match out of a \$50,000 fund. Any giving from June 15 – 30 will allow your dollars to be stretched further as the committee seeks to secure and weatherproof the structure

See Museum Fundraiser, Page 2



Kids finding a variety of ways to earn some cash during summer break.



Fourteen-year-old Jamie Johnson was one of the vendors at last week’s Arnold Farmer’s Market, selling several varieties of potted flowers she has started. - Debbie Connelly photo

Dough: We all need it.

Second in a short series on Arnold’s hard-working pre-teens and very early teens.

Fourteen-year-old Jamie Johnson had one goal when she started growing flowers to sell at the young age of 7: to save money to build a house for her parents. As she got older, she realized that wasn’t possible, so her next goal was to buy a sewing machine for herself. She got one for Christmas, so then she set a new goal: to buy a bred heifer. She saved money for years and finally got to buy two young heifers. Jamie grows her flowers on the edge of her family’s farmers market garden. In all, she plants 22 varieties in a 240’ garden space and has been selling them for seven years at

Arnold’s Farmers Market. She spends about four hours in the garden each day during the growing season. She chooses the seeds, sows them in flats and then transplants each little seedling into her row. Her grandmother, Melody Jennings, said she is completely responsible to do it all alone because the vegetable garden takes everyone else’s attention. She doesn’t have to be told to do it, she just does. “If you can’t find Jamie, look in the garden, she’s there somewhere pulling weeds,” said Melody. “It takes consistent work to keep the rows weeded and watered, but I like it, so it’s not really work,” said Jamie. “I love flowers because it’s inherited!”

See DOUGH, Page 6

Community Projects Discussed at Village Board Meeting

At their regular meeting held on June 12, Arnold Village Board members were given an update on a \$222,770.00 grant that the Village has been awarded. Arnold Economic Development Director Cheryl Carson said the grant has been awarded for future housing land development. The Department of Economic Development’s legal team is in the process of drafting new sub-award agreements for the Rural Workforce Housing Land Development Program that will replace the agreement sent via DocuSign a few weeks ago. The new agreement will contain more precise language and greater specificity of program guidelines. The signed agreement remains in effect, but will be entirely replaced upon completion of the new agreement.

ARA Aerating Fountains

Ethan Furne was at the meeting regarding the Rotary Interact Project for the Arnold Recreation Area. The project includes putting three aerating fountains at the ARA to help control the algae and to provide oxidation for the fish. Ethan gave an update on the following donations and grants: Arnold Community Foundation - \$6,000.00; Arnold Rotary - \$500.00; Custer County Foundation - \$5,000.00; Custer County Visitor Tourism Grant - \$5,000.00; Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation - \$1,750.00; Local donations - \$300.00. Ethan said there has been \$18,550.00 in donations and grants. The total cost of the project is approximately \$20,500.00 and asked if the Village would contribute towards

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(Above) Women relax on the pool’s new lounge chairs, while kids enjoy playing with foam pool noodles on Wednesday of last week. (Right) Tysen Schacher goes up for a dunk on the new basketball hoop. - Debbie Connelly photos

Sun Fun

Kids, adults are loving new additions to the Arnold Pool

It was nothing but fun in the sun at the Arnold Pool last Wednesday afternoon, as women basked in the sun on new lounge chairs and kids splashed in the cool, blue water playing with some new toys thanks to generous donations and a purchase by the Village. Pool manager Shavonne Schacher, who is assisted by Reagan Cool, Haley Reed, and Amanda Badgley, said the number of residents enjoying the pool is way up from last year. Last week there were over 60 people the majority of the days. Every Wednesday, Pinnacle Bank hands out ice pops to the kids at the pool, and on June 7, they ran out for the first time. “There were so many kids that we had to keep running back and forth to the bank. We order 80 and we ran out!” said bank employee Jessica Fletcher. “It has been busier this summer than I have seen in my past years at

the pool. Last year our big days were 30 kids. This year we are getting over that almost daily. I think some of this contributes to the kids that are able to come and enjoy the pool by themselves. We have a good amount of kids in our community that love coming to the pool as a social place to get together,” Shavonne said. The Village’s purchase of three new lounge chairs could be part of the larger turnout. “Parents and babysitters are loving the lounge chairs. I think that having comfortable seating also encourages adults to come hang out with their kiddos and sit by the pool all afternoon,” said Shavonne. Jim and Val Daly of J & V Firearms donated a basketball hoop and it’s been a huge hit. The couple also donated goggles and diving rings. “Since we have set (the hoop) up, kids have played basketball the entire four hours of afternoon swim.

The kids have all done very well with rotating and letting all kids enjoy it,” said Shavonne. “Noodles were donated last year by Amy and Brandon Nansel, but we didn’t have a good place to store them. This year I moved them outside in a basket so they are easily accessible and they have been very well used.” A robotic vacuum purchased by the Village is new this year and Shavonne said it’s a great investment. It has helped cut back on vacuuming manual hours. It’s put in the pool in the morning and allowed to run for 2-3 hours and does a fantastic job. The vacuum is attached to a cord that is plugged in and will run along the bottom of the pool similar to a house robot vacuum like a Roomba. “It will also climb the wall, so it works very well in our deep-end. If you like straight lines, it will drive you crazy watching, but over time it will get all the places,” she said.

