

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Connecting Nebraska

### Gov. Pillen makes Arnold part of his fly around stop.

“What’s more important, Custer County or Nebraska?” It’s one of the questions Gov. Jim Pillen asked a crowd of about 60 last Thursday, as he made a stop at Arnold’s community center. The visit, which lasted over an hour, was part of the July 6 fly around to outline his administration’s approach for connecting the entire state. The fly around included stops in Columbus, North Platte, Arnold, Grand Island, and Wahoo.

Accompanying the Governor to the Lee Bird Field and Arnold stops were Nebraska Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Vicki Kramer, newly appointed State Broadband Director Patrick Haggerty and new Department of Economic Development Director K.C. Belitz.

Haggerty will oversee the roughly \$405 million in infrastructure funds awarded to Nebraska through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

K.C. Belitz assumed his new role as the next director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) on July 5.

Vicki Kramer spoke about DOT projects, including the Arnold South Project scheduled to start in 2024.

Arnold was by far the smallest community the Governor visited. Village Board Chairman

**“It’s not a luxury, it’s essential.”**

- Gov. Jim Pillen on high speed internet access beyond municipalities

Glen Bowers said he was happy with the good turnout of residents.

“This was about connecting the rural areas of the state, and Arnold is about as rural as you can get,” said Bowers.

During a question and answer period, internet access for rural farms was mentioned. Gov. Pillen said the goal is to give every household access to high speed internet.

“It’s not a luxury, it’s essential,” he said.

Resident Nancy Cool asked the important question of, “When you leave, what can (Arnold) do so that you don’t forget us.”

The Governor said, “My first impression of Arnold is awesome. You’re keeping up the old buildings and bringing in new. Keep doing what you’re doing. Arnold is going to thrive, not because of us, but because of you.”



Against the backdrop of the Arnold water tower canvas print, Gov. Jim Pillen speaks to a crowd of about 60 on connecting the state last Thursday at the community center as part of his fly around to five communities. - Debbie Connelly photos



Accompanying Gov. Pillen on his stops were (from left) Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director K.C. Belitz, State Broadband Director Patrick Haggerty, and Nebraska Department of Transportation Director Vicki Kramer.

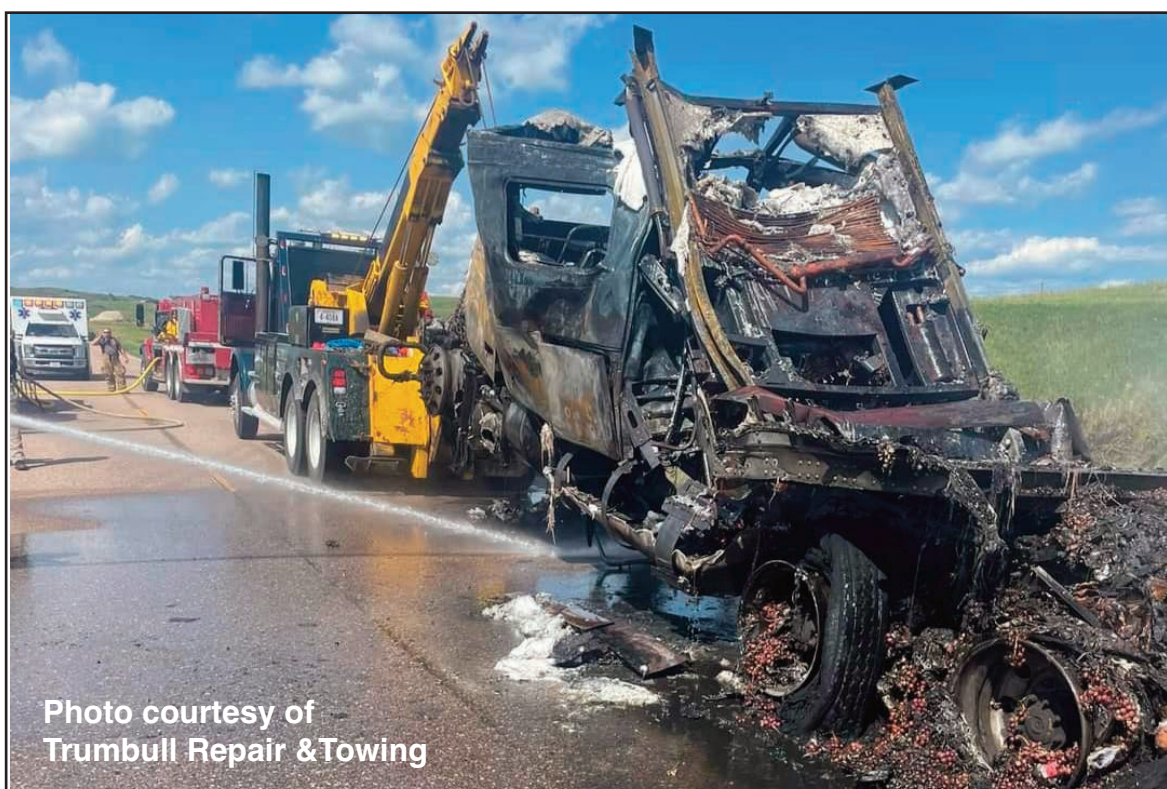


Photo courtesy of Trumbull Repair & Towing

## Grape Fire Results In Some Really Juicy News

A semi fire near Lower Powell Canyon Road east of Arnold caused a mess, shutting down Highway 92 for several hours on Sunday, July 9.

The Arnold Fire Department was called to the scene of the large fire, taking the ambulance, tanker, grass rig, crash truck, and command vehicle for traffic fire. Merna was called in for mutual aid.

AVFD Fire Chief Andrew Tickle said the fire was caused by a blown tire on the right rear inner tire of the semi, which in turn, started the trailer on fire. Carrying a cargo of red grapes, the driver tried to save the trailer, but it all happened too fast.

With help from the Merna fire department, the fire was out within the first couple of hours, but getting the scene

cleaned up was extensive.

AVFD was called to the scene at 2:30 p.m., and the road was closed down until 7:00 p.m.

“There were a lot of plastics and things to burn, so it took a while,” said Tickle. “It took a combination of Trumbull Towing, Scotty McDowell with his mini excavator and side dump truck, and Robbi Smith with his payload to clean it up.”

The Department of Transportation will take care of damage caused to the highway from the fire. The Custer County Sheriff’s Office and Custer County Emergency Management were on the scene, directing traffic.

The driver of the semi was uninjured.

## Poker Run, Games, Food, Live Music

### Devil’s Den Bike Rally celebrates another year of charitable giving.

The Annual Devil’s Den Bike Rally returned to town last weekend, bringing bikers from across Nebraska and surrounding states. The biker who traveled the farthest distance came from New Mexico. One-hundred-eight people registered for Saturday’s poker run, which was down a bit, but the Show & Shine had way more entered than in previous years.

Show & Shine winners were: Old School - Tim Turley; Stock - Tate Pirnie; and Custom - Chad Larsen.

Poker Run winners were: 1st with a flush - Marie Yarrington; 2nd with 3 of a kind (K) - Marti Porter; and 3rd - 3 of a kind (8) - Craig Klug.

Competition winners were: Miss Devil’s Den - Aubrey; and Biggest Beer Belly - Jeff Preston.

The Rally raises money for local charities, and includes events on both Friday night and Saturday at the Arnold Recreation Area.



Russell Menke from Lawrence, Nebraska (with Devil’s Den Bike Rally secretary Heather Hagler) picks his first card for the poker run Saturday morning at Gazers. - Sheri Lamb photos



Taylor Hanna hit the target’s bullseye Saturday night in the axe throwing booth at the Arnold Recreation Area. It was one of several games and competitions offered at Friday’s free night and during the main event on Saturday evening that included food and live bands.