

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## There's More To His Story “Coach” Miller honored for 70 years as Legion member.

By Janet Larreau

He was an excellent English teacher and coach for over three decades at A.H.S. In fact, hundreds of alumni still call him “Coach.” But there's a lot more stories to be told about long-time Arnold resident Bill Miller than “the kids” re-tell over and over.

This July, Bill received a frame certificate from The American Legion, letting it be known that William B. Miller, a longtime and dedicated member of American Legion Post 0086, Department of Nebraska, has been certified to have been a member in good standing continuously for 70 years.

Bill, who will turn 93 on the 26th of July, said his membership in the Atkinson John Farley Post 0086 has a lot of meaning. The Post was named after his uncle, who was the first boy from Atkinson to die in WWI. Bill is the last survivor of the Farley family who was in the service.

He is a veteran of the Korean War, which ended 70 years ago on the 27th of July, the day after Bill's birthday.

“I was drafted by my father,” said Bill. “He was a draft board member,

and he came home and said, ‘Son, you have this weekend to join the service, or I’m drafting you Monday.’ He did. I was in my first year of college.”

Bill took his brother Pat's place in the war, and saw action in Korea. Pat served from 1950-52 and Bill served from 1952-54.

“My daughter Stacie asked me, ‘Would you do it again, Dad?’ I said yes, I would, but put me where they want me, because I’m not walking anymore. It was 160 miles across and back, and I don’t know how many times I walked it.”

Now this is where his war story gets really interesting. Bill was with the 40th Division, which went with the 4077th M.A.S.H. Division.

Ironically, Bill says he knew, who he calls, “the first” Radar – a little puppy that he found that licked his face.

“I put her in my duffle bag. I didn’t think I would get to keep her. My captain (Adams) fell in love with the puppy. We took her to the M.A.S.H. and they fixed her up. I didn’t think she would make it, but she did.”

Bill ended up leaving the dog with a sergeant, who eventually became a cast member of the T.V. show



Bill Miller received a certificate from the American Legion in July for 70 years of continuous membership. - Debbie Connelly photo

M.A.S.H., which has recently been honored for its 50th year in LIFE magazine.

“I’ve watched every episode of M.A.S.H. There was an episode where the M.A.S.H. outfit was being interviewed. Many of the episodes were based on what really happened. It brings back some memories. Yeah, it happened.”

## Radar Speed Sign Put on Hold

Installing a radar speed sign by the east city limits on Highway 92 was put on hold for a while, after Village Board members learned that there would be more cost involved. The additional cost was discussed at their regular Board meeting held on July 10.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation approved the Village's application for placement of a traffic control device within the state right-of-way, and with that approval, the Village purchased a speed sign for \$4,500.00. The intent was to place the radar sign on a speed limit sign, but the NDOT's pole turned out to not be big enough to hold the radar sign. According to NDOT, the Village now needs to purchase a pole that meets ANSI standards. The pole is \$2,200.00 using J Bolts and pouring concrete and a pole with helix foundation anchor for soil installation is \$3,200.00. The superintendent will now discuss the matter with NDOT Director Vicki Kramer before the project moves forward to try to slow people down.

### In other business, the Board:

- Heard a resident's concerns about a yard at 202 E 2nd Ave. needing mowed, overgrown weeds on property east of Riverview, and dogs running at large and defecating on his property. He was told that the yard would be mowed. Board member Jason Jenkins volunteered to take care of the weed issue. The resident will need to fill out an official complaint regarding the dog issue.
- Was informed that Tony Hall resigned from the Housing Authority Board. Aaron Coleman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Hall.
- Authorized Village Clerk Patty Lamberty to applying for a NDE grant for a Scrap Tire Collection event.
- Heard a suggestion from a resident that the Village logo be placed on Village equipment. Board members thought that would be a good idea.

## School Board Approves Stipend for Music Program

School Board members approved purchases and a music stipend at their regular meeting held last week.

From previous discussions, board members approved a \$5,000.00 stipend for Superintendent Joel Morgan as compensation for taking charge of the music program. Mr. Morgan said he plans to distribute that money to a couple of key staff members who allowed him to do it. He also talked about the upcoming school year and plans to improve the music program.

“They picked up the slack, were bouncing off ideas, and helped me get the stage ready for programs. I’m extremely grateful for them,” he said. “We haven’t had any applications for the music position, and we have prepared to move on in the event we don’t find anyone. We’re going

to try to work it out for the music schedule to be more consistent. When I’m not there, we’ll have someone to fill in to facilitate the units.”

In other action items, Board members approved purchasing a lunchroom air conditioner that went out last fall, five interactive boards for the elementary teachers and classroom chairs for Grades K-1.

Flexible use furniture will also be purchased specifically for special education. The stand-up desks and tables, and specialized seating will be 100% paid for with COVID money that was allocated to the district.

“It will be for the active kiddos. It will allow them to have more movement,” said Mr. Morgan.

## AVFD Members Complete 21-Hour ICS Course

Three Arnold Volunteer Fire Department members completed the ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents course held in Merna on June 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29. Those completing the course were Andrew Tickle, Tammy Weinman and Cassy DeLosh. This was a 21 hour course taught by the Nebraska State Fire Marshall's office and conducted in accordance with the NIMS Training

Program.

This course is designed for those emergency response personnel who would function in a Command or General Staff position during a large, complex incident or event, or personnel who are or would likely be part of a local or regional Incident Management Team during a major incident, whether single agency, multi-agency or Unified Command.



## Rope Rescue

Dalton Swopes with the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department is lowered to repel as part of the rope rescue training held in Gothenburg. The instructors for the training were from the Nebraska State Fire Marshall's office. Dalton said, “I learned quite a bit about knots and mechanical advantages and how to setup systems for belay and rappelling.”

The Arnold Fire Department has a lot of rope rescue equipment and this type of training is valuable for it's members. - Courtesy photo

## “Community” Magazine Promotes Custer County Towns

The Arnold Economic Development Corporation is moving forward with promoting Arnold and land development. Village Board members were given an update on how things are progressing at their regular meeting held on July 10.

In her update, Arnold Economic Development Director Cheryl Carson, who has been elected vice president of the Central Nebraska Economic Development Board, reported that directory of services and things to do binders are in lodging businesses, along with “Community Our History Our Celebrations How We Look Forward” magazine, a first addition magazine created by the *Custer County Chief* to promote the communities of Custer County for tourism.

Carson said that the AEDC and Arnold took advantage of as many pages as they were allowed, and AEDC purchased an additional full-page ad to promote Arnold's lodging, recreation, historical stops, and events. Story topics were chosen by the Chief, including History (Berni Crow), SORC (Joe Shown), School (Joel Morgan), Downtown/Community Businesses (BrewBakers, Touch of Grace

Therapy and Spa/Oakbrook Physical Therapy), Arnold Medical Clinic (Brett Eggleston), Arnold Museum (Renee Bubak), Recreation and Interests (AEDC).

In order to distribute and utilize the magazine's potential for attracting tourism to Arnold, the AEDC created the above-mentioned binder and included the magazine. The binder will give travelers an idea of what Arnold has available while they visit. Guests and visitors can request a free copy of the magazine from their lodging hosts if they would like one to take home.

The promotional magazines will also go in welcome bags, in business waiting areas if requested, and posted out at the lake in an advertising case.

Carson spoke about the \$222,770.00 grant that Arnold was awarded for land development. Additional guidelines from the State of Nebraska were received on July 5 for grant and these are now in a review process with the Village attorney and Amber Ross of Central Nebraska Economic Development. A response is required by August 15.

IT'S TIME TO VISIT

# Arnold

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Arnold isn't only a great place to live, but it's also a great place for your next stay-cation! Come spend a day or two with us dining, shopping, and making memories! We can't wait to see you!

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Ad Sponsored By: Arnold Economic Development Corporation • Ad Design By: Alexandra Gonzalez

The Arnold Economic Development Corporation purchased the above full page ad in the “Community” Magazine that is being distributed all across Custer County to promote tourism.