



The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 107, NUMBER 9

It Takes a Village

Organizations, individuals step up each year to feed and house SORC guests

By Janet Larreau

Drivers, their navigators, and support people will roll into town this week to compete in the Annual Sandhills Open Road Challenge. One thing is certain: during their three day visit to this small village and the surrounding area, they won't go away hungry, or be without a place to stay. For 23 years, the community of Arnold has been ready for them. If you talk with the volunteers who organize the meals and housing, it's not an easy job, but well worth it for what the SORC gives back.

The racing events start on Thursday, with the Loup-2Loup, when drivers and navigators are fed lunch at Halsey by volunteers from that area. When the race is over, Dan Blowers and his crew serve the drivers a steak supper at the city park. Blowers, who has organized the meal for three years and has help from Lindy Dailey, Rod Ross, Heath Johnson, Joel Morgan, and Wendy Dailey, serves about 250 people a great meal of steak, cauliflower, potato wedges, and salads.

"SORC pays for the beef. We order the steaks from John Reed. It's similar to Blowers Family Beef, which is a higher grade," said Dan.

At Friday's Shoot-Out, near Callaway, everyone is served lunch by volunteers from that town. On Friday night, the St. Agnes Women can be found hard at work serving some 200 people a chicken-noodle dinner at the Arnold Community Center. Aleta Ambler, one of several women who organize the meal, says that they prepare 100 lbs. of potatoes, 26 lbs. of homemade noodles 54 cups of chopped chicken, and 9 gallons of broth. The women also bring 5 gallons of cucumbers, 10 gallons of fresh green beans, and around 240 pieces of dessert.

"We cook the chicken and noodles in a big roaster that takes a lot of attention so it's just right. We had



Dessert is always called for after a good meal. At Saturday night's free-will donation barbecue, the After Prom committee makes that possible, serving homemade ice cream and brownies. It's just one of several meals provided to SORC drivers, navigators, and volunteers by individuals and organizations during the three-day Sandhills Open Road Challenge. - Jessica Tickle photo

about ten women helping in the kitchen last year, and I hope we have that many again. It's our main fundraiser of the year," said Aleta.

On Saturday morning, the Arnold Rotary Club serves breakfast for the 200-plus SORC volunteers. The Rotarians start preparing the breakfast at 4:00 a.m. at the community center. The menu consists of sausage gravy and biscuits, scrambled eggs, sliced ham, fruit, and coffee and juice. In a short amount of time, the volunteers are served, have their meeting, and are at their places along the Dunning road north of Arnold for the main event.

"Rotary is invested in our community, and it's one of our projects," said Kelli Blevins, who organizes the meal.

The big barbecue - sponsored by Great Plains Communications - is held on Saturday night at the city park. Some 500 people are served, as both racers and the community come together for the awards ceremony. This is Barb Gunther's third year of organizing the barbecue for Chamber. She took over for her dad, Dell Cerny, who was organizer for several years before that. The free-will donations go directly to Chamber, and it's their biggest fundraiser of the year. This year, a new guy will be in charge of smoking pulled-pork and baked beans. There will also be coleslaw and corn on the cob. SORC rounds up the South Loup football team to pick the corn courtesy of Steve Frey of Stapleton. It's picked fresh that morning, and boiled by the Stapleton Fire Department. Dena Mills with Mills Hardware furnishes all the water and sets up the tank. Barb's job is to organize everything and everyone else, including set up, ordering, and cleaning up.

"All of the food is ordered locally from Reed's Food Center and is paid for by Great Plains. Chamber mem-

bers have to be there, but a lot of times there are a lot of drivers who want to help serve. It's their way of giving back. In years past, it was much more work than it is now. Everything has gotten easier with some changes," she said.

About 11 years ago, juniors and seniors from A.H.S. began serving homemade ice cream and brownies at the barbecue as a fundraiser for After Prom - one of three main fundraisers they hold each year.

"We always have the kids work in two shifts and overlap in set up and serving, serving and cleanup. Each kid supplies one gallon of ice cream and one pan of brownies. If there's some leftover, we announce that anyone can buy it," said Leta Connell, who is in charge.

And then there's ice to think about - a lot of it. Tiff Varney is pretty much in charge of that, and school superintendent Joel Morgan helps out by storing it in the school's freezer.

As far as housing, it's never seemed to be a problem. From the very beginning of the SORC, residents have opened up their homes to the drivers and navigators. Della Dailey, who is in charge, said if she hooks them up with a family, they then make arrangements directly with that family the following years. If there are new drivers, she receives an e-mail and puts it out on Facebook that a place to stay is needed. Some drivers stay in Arnold's local motels and bed and breakfasts, and some stay in area communities.

"This year, only four guys needed houses. There's a ton of people who open up their homes. The great part of it is the relationship you have with these people. It's a long-lasting relationship. They kind of become like family. We've had the same people stay at our house for 14 years. Realistically, they just want a place to sleep and hang out. They support the town, too," she said.

Arnold Historical Society Receives Top Match

Finch Library's project fund grows.



Present for the Give 4 Custer County Match check presentation at Broken Bow on August 3 were: (back, l-r) Cheryl Carson, Kim Beshaler, Nicole Badgley, Rick Peterson, Andrew Tickle; (front, l-r) Marcy Lucas, Carolyn Watkins, Barb Peterson, Carlene Lanham, Berni Crow, and Renee Bubak. - Courtesy photo

Representatives of the Arnold Area Historical Society, Finch Library, and the Arnold Economic Development Corporation were on hand to receive their Give 4 Custer County check last Thursday evening in Broken Bow. The Custer County Foundation handed out over \$250,000 at the Broken Bow City Square

that day to 29 nonprofit organizations. These organizations participated in Give 4 Custer County and raised over \$200,000 in a two-week period. The Custer County Foundation provided \$50,000 in matching funds and \$2,500 in incentive prizes. These match and incentive dollars were made possible by the Yanagi-

da Challenge and Kiewit Challenge.

The Arnold Area Historical Society raised \$51,993.10 and their match amount was \$12,916.25 for a total of \$64,909.35 - by far the highest match amount received out of all 29 organizations. Their goal is to renovate the old Archie's Cafe to become a historical museum.

Finch Memorial Library/Arnold Economic Development raised \$2,037.10 and their match was \$496.03, for a total of \$2,533.13. Their project is to fix concerning issues in the library's basement. Please turn to page 6 for official results of all organizations participating.

Village Board Approves Indoor Pickleball Court

At a special Village Board meeting held on July 31, Jimi Cole asked members to consider allowing 3M painters tape to be put on the gym floor in the community center for pickleball courts. Jimi said that several people from Arnold have been traveling to Callaway to play pickleball at their community center, and they would like to play in Arnold's community center.

Callaway puts the tape down year-round and takes it up during basketball season. Jimi did her research and said that according to the company that installed the gym floor, 3M painters tape does not leave a residue. The volleyball lines in the gym would be used to help form the court so tape would not have to be used to make the entire court.

Jimi mentioned that at Callaway, people are responsible for bringing their own net; at Arnold, the pickleball net at the basketball court could be taken to the community center for use during the winter.

After everything was discussed, board members voted to allow tape to be used on the gym floor, as long as it doesn't leave a residue, for the pickleball courts. Jimi will work with Doug DeLaune on the project.

Another agenda item was the health board's recommendation to proceed with Nuisance Abatement at 105 N Hillcrest. The property owners and Village Attorney Mike Borders attended the meeting. The minutes from the health board meeting on July 25, 2023, were read and the Board directed the Village attorney to send a letter to the property owners regarding nuisance abatement. Borders said that the remedy of the public nuisance must be completed within ten days of receiving the official notice. If the owners refuse to remedy the public notice or they wish to appeal the board of health's decision within ten days, a hearing shall be fixed, when the issue of the public nuisance will come before the Village Board.