

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 107, NUMBER 22



A folded American flag that was flown over the Arabian Gulf and a certificate have been encased and hung in the main hallway of Arnold Schools, along with photos of A.H.S. alums Brenden Rivers (left) and Dave Halstead (right), and their platoon, who are currently serving overseas. - Courtesy photo

## The Story Behind Mystery Farms Revealed WWII Vets Behind Documentation

A staggering number of veterans returned to civilian life after the end of World War II. According to the National WWII Museum, by the end of 1945, the War Department had returned more than four million soldiers to the United States. Between September and December 1945, the Army discharged an average of 1.2 million soldiers per month. Many of the soldiers returned to farm life. Just a handful continued to use their military skills to document those same farms.

During the late 1940s, a group of former WWII pilots, who were reconnaissance photographers,

formed the Zekan-Robbins Company. Based in Harland, Iowa, these men traveled around the country visiting local communities and taking aerial photographs, hoping to sell their pictures to property owners and area businesses.

One of the ways the company sold their photos was by working with local newspapers on a 52-week promotion called the “Mystery Farm.” The series started in the *Arnold Sentinel* on November 13, 1952, and ended on November 12, 1953.

The photographers learned their trade in the U.S. Navy, where they flew

in aircraft carrier based planes in the South Pacific, using cameras similar to those used over the peaceful agricultural area here.

The most hazardous form of flying, at low altitudes, was performed in obtaining the series of pictures for the *Sentinel*. The Zekan-Robbins photo company had a waiver from the Civil Aeronautics Commission for their commercial pilot, in order that he could fly at altitudes of 100 to 200 feet and get close up views.

In all parts of the country.

See MYSTERY FARMS Page 2

## Fence Project Begins



(From left) Bob Hough, Ron Cool, and Irv Jennings were setting posts last Friday for a fence that will run along the south and east sides of the recycling and dumpsters area. The Rotary community beautification project was approved by the Village Board. More on this project will be reported when it is completed. - Debbie Connelly photo

## Folded American Flag Sent From Overseas School Pays Tribute to Military Alums

A case was put up in the main hallway of the school last Friday, displaying a folded American flag, photos of Nebraska National Guardsmen Brenden Rivers and David Halstead, their platoon, and a certificate.

“Brenden messaged me one day from overseas and asked, ‘Think it would be cool to have an American flag at the school that has been on a drone mission in the Middle East?’ I told him absolutely,” said Principal Ali Goodenow. “Brenden did all the work in mailing the flag and certificate and a picture of the crew. It has been fun getting to talk to Brenden and Dave, as they are both currently stationed over there.”

Both boys are in Charlie Troop; however, the group picture in the top photo is their platoon called the Copperheads.

Dave is expected to be making his way back to the United States, hopefully at some point toward the end of November, and Brenden has chosen to extend his deployment another year.

Dave is a 2008 Arnold alum and Brenden is a 2018 alum.

“It’s pretty cool that two of our hometown boys, who graduated 10 years apart, have got to experience this deployment together,” said Ali. “We thought it would be a wonderful honor to recognize them for their service during this deployment.”

ment and all other service they’ve provided during their time in the U.S. Military.”

The certificate reads, “This American flag was proudly flown over the Arabian Gulf aboard an A-10C Warthog in support of Operation Spartan Shield presented to Arnold Public Schools from the 75th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron ‘Tiger Sharks.’ Let it be known that this flag was flown in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It displays America’s unwavering resolve to continue the fight against terrorism across the globe.” The certificate includes the pilot’s name, call sign, date, and mission number.



Library board members and students gather around A Little Free Library that was put up at Koubek Gardens on October 26. From left are: Cindy Tullis, Rose Berman, Marcy Lucas, Eli Rogers, Pam Smith, Carlene Lanham, Amanda (Koubek) Wehnes, and Anna and Ivy Tullis. - Debbie Connelly photo

## A Little Free Library Appears Downtown Interact Kids Share Love of Reading

By Janet Larreau

On Thursday, November 2, a little girl peered inside a mysterious box filled with books that had suddenly appeared in Koubek Gardens. She opened the door to the small wooden box set on a post and made a selection. Putting that book between her knees, she picked out another one. She might have been The Little Library’s first visitor.

Also known as Take a Book, Share a Book, the project started as an idea that came from one of the Rotary Interact student meetings. Eli Rogers started it off by talking to Finch Library board members, who told him some specifics about what they would like to see in the house itself. Knowing Anna Tullis might enjoy the project, he handed it over to her, although he continued to help.

Anna found a blueprint for the house and she and Eli took it to shop teacher Mr. Recoy late last year. Once the library board members saw the finished product, they suggested placing it in Koubek Gardens.

As with all projects, there were a lot of people

to talk to. Anna contacted Amanda Koubek Wehnes asking if she was okay with it and the city to see what they thought. Rotary Interact Coordinator Nicole Badgley called Diggers Hotline and everything was in place.

Anna and her twin sister Ivy, Delaney Rogers, and Eli dug the post hole and put the library up together during the Halloween Carnival. Anna said she has a sign partially finished and Ivy helped paint “Our Little Library” on the sign, along with some flowers. Anna will add the Interact and chair members’ information on the sign, as well.

Last Friday, Anna said, “I hope to finish that in the next few days and will put that up soon. The project really was a group effort and I am so grateful for everyone’s help!”

Nicole Badgley added, “Yes, this was Anna’s Interact project, but it always takes a village for a vision to come to life. It is amazing what teens can do when we simply empower them to let their dreams become a reality. Interact projects allow the teens to network with adults in a professional manner and that is a great learning step for them.”

School librarian Debby Moninger said she thinks it’s a great project.

“Anna, Ivy and their entire class love reading and realize the social aspect of it. They, and several of the juniors and seniors, are a lot of why our book clubs are starting so well. When I eaves dropped on their Interact meeting, I couldn’t help but get excited about what “A Little Library” does to show a community’s reading passion. Ironically, the one that Anna and Ivy built definitely took on the feel of Arnold because it blends in so well with Reed’s and Koubek Gardens. I can’t wait to see kids reading a children’s book from it on the picnic table there as they wait for their parents to shop at Reed’s or get a drink from BrewBakers. I know Anna and Ivy tried to have books that will appeal to a variety of ages,” she said.

Note: A Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. They function on the honor system. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. If you take a book or two from a little library, try to bring some to share to that same library.