

*Let Us Give Thanks*

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Proceeds From ACFF Fundraiser Exceed \$64,000



ACFF board member Shane Cool, left, displays a Pointer Acruis 28 gauge over-under shotgun donated by Arnold Insurance Agency, as auctioneer Wendell Brott and board member Holly Remund banter back and forth during the banquet and auction on Saturday night. This was one of nine firearms donated and auctioned off during the event. - Amanda Wehnes photos

By Amanda Wehnes

More than 200 people filled the community center on Saturday for an evening of food, fun, and philanthropy to benefit the Arnold Community Foundation Fund.

The ACFF is a non-profit organization that provides financial or operational assistance for projects within the community. In the past year, they provided financial assistance for the fountain aerators at the Arnold Recreation Area; the improved weight room at the school; the Little Library in Koubek Gardens; light pole revitalization along Highway 92 downtown; the Arnold Area Museum project; and is the non-profit umbrella organization for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project.

This is the 13th year the Foundation has held their annual meal and auction fundraiser to raise funds for community projects.

Each year an individual and a group is honored for their volunteerism and philanthropy to the Arnold community. This year, two individuals and one group were honored for their contributions to our community.

Mike Harvey and Mary Becker were named philanthropists of the year for their many years of helping their community. Harvey, a former Arnold Public School principal, was honored for his service to his country as a Vietnam veteran, his tenure on the planning and zoning boards for Arnold and Custer County, and most importantly his work with the American Legion Post 130.

Harvey is the catalyst for the scrap metal recycling program that helps fund the services the Legion Post provides to area veterans and the community at-large, including no-cost rental of medical equipment - wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs,

etc - for those needing short-term use of these items following surgery or illness.

Becker, who is married to Harvey, was honored for her commitment to Arnold through her work

on the Rialto Theater board of directors, Arnold Rotary Club, grant writing assistance to area nonprofits, and her past work to build the Arnold Community Center. Becker is currently the Presi-

dent and Manager of the Rialto Theater, a volunteer-run movie theater in Arnold, that offers an affordable option to enjoy new movies without having to leave town or break the bank for a night out.

The philanthropy group award was given to the William A Layton American Legion Post 130 in Arnold. An anonymous donor paid for area vet-

See FUNDRAISER  
PAGE 6.



Mike Harvey and Mary Becker are presented the Philanthropist of the Year award from Aaron Coleman with the Arnold Community Foundation Fund. Harvey and Becker were honored for their contributions to the Arnold community through the American Legion, Rotary, and Rialto Theater.



Members of the William A Layton American Legion Post 130, as well as Sons of the American Legion, accept the Philanthropist Group of the Year award at the Arnold Community Foundation Fund banquet on Saturday.



## Packing the Perfect Shoe Box

Harper Hershey from Wyoming and Arnold juniors Realta Leach and Ivy Tullis help kindergartners (from left) Kassidee Goodner, Myah Fry, and Clara Bierman choose school supplies for the 2-4 age group at last Wednesday's Operation Christmas Child packing party. All grades, plus volunteers from outside of the school, were involved in hitting the goal of packing 1,300 shoe boxes for children in the U.S. and around the world. Local OCC organizer Melody Jennings will give a full report in an upcoming issue. - Debbie Connelly photos

Clara Bierman made her first pass around the tables, making very tough decisions in order to pack the perfect box. In the end she had the satisfaction of placing a sticker on her shirt that read, "I packed a shoebox!" This was the 10th year that the school has been involved in the packing party, making it possible to set higher goals of the number of shoe boxes packed.