

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 107, NUMBER 26

## Bringing Happiness and Good Cheer



Xander Schwarz shows disbelief, as he meets the “real Santa” at Koubek Gardens November 29 during Christmas Around Town. - Debbie Connelly photo

### Residents enjoy Christmas Around Town

Arnold’s downtown Walnut Street was blocked off and there was hardly a parking place to be found on surrounding streets or at the community center last Wednesday, as residents turned out for everything Chamber’s Christmas Around Town had to offer for young and old.

The event is held each year to promote shopping locally and businesses, including BrewBakers, Mills Hardware, Four County Boutique, Nails for Starz, Dahlia Valley Ranch Storefront, Touch of Grace, Grazers, and The Exchange, were open well into the evening offering discounts, drawings, and plenty of merchandise and food. Some businesses reported a steady flow of traffic during the day and some had times when it was jam-packed.

Surrounded by lit up holiday decorations, Santa and his elves greeted some 240 kids at Koubek Gardens from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Grinch was also slinking around to add to the fun.

Chamber president April Tickle said the large hayrack ride, also held from 5:00 to 7:00, was a big hit. Pulled by a tractor, the hayrack made 30 rounds around town and every load was full.

At one point, the line went clear down to the highway from the theater, as people waited for a funnel cake. Seventy-five were sold at \$7.00 a pop as a fundraiser for the upcoming Citizen Washington Focus trip.

Over at the community center, Rotarians were hosting a pancake feed. About 225 people were served, bringing in \$1,400.00 in free-will donations and netting \$600.00 in profit for Rotary projects. Off to the side, Rotary Interact members were wrapping gifts for a free-will donation.

At Touch of Grace Massage and the community center, Arnold Area Historical Museum committee members were selling 2024 historical calendars and raffle tickets for the beef raffle drawing sponsored by Nansel’s Best Service. About one-third of the calendars featuring rural schools were sold for \$20.00 each during the day, and more orders were coming in. At 7:00 p.m., museum committee chair Renee Bubak and Santa drew the winning ticket. Lyle Suhr was the lucky winner. The raffle, sponsored by Nansel’s Best Service, brought in just shy of \$2,000.00 for the Cornerstone Project.

South of the post office, people were taking tours of Arnold’s new duplexes at an open house and were greeted by Design Homes, Inc. owner Lane Chesley, his wife Melanie, and son Dillon.

“The day went well. The weather was beautiful, which helped out a lot. All of the businesses who signed up got over to get their time slot with Husker Radio,” said Chamber president April Tickle.

## How Much It Will Take

### Conerstone Project committee sets fundraising goal



By Janet Larreau

*Second in series on the Arnold Area Historical Museum project.*

Embarking on the momentous task of revitalizing the cornerstone of our downtown is the principal focus of the local historical society. After closing the deal to purchase the old Archie’s Café, many meetings, and obtaining estimates from contractors, the Arnold Area Historical Museum committee recently set a goal of raising just over \$325,000.00 to fulfill their funding needs to restore the c. 1914 structure and create a museum. The

eventual outcome of what is called the Cornerstone Project itself will rewrite history in our community. This piece of a continuing series on the project deals with the bottom line of numbers and how the committee arrived at their goal. After receiving grants and donations and holding fundraisers, the total raised to date stood at \$147,750.35 towards their overall projected cost of \$475,000.00. Grants awarded have totaled \$62,780.00 as received from the Arnold Community Foundation Fund, Custer County Tourism Visitors Committee, Humanities Nebraska, and the Nebraska State Historical Society

Foundation. Donations received, including a matching pool from Give 4 Custer County – a product of the Custer County Foundation, total nearly \$80,000.00.

“Before we even had a building or had publicized many details about our future museum, the key to our early success with pledges and donations was the time our fundraising chair spent individually talking with people about the project,” said committee chair Renee Bubak. “As a result, our commitment to buy Archie’s in close proximity to the timing of the Give 4 Custer County event created a great opportunity to collect on all those pledges. Many gave more than they had pledged – several even doubling their pledges. We also had new donors and the chicken noodle dinner/open house event was a good awareness piece.”

Beyond the purchase of the building, other expenses have included insurance, hiring of a structural engineer, cleaning out the basement, pur-

chasing a computer, software, printer, and recording equipment, and other general costs, including a storage area and display cases. Work to the actual structure of the dilapidated building along with finishing touches to the interior is roughly estimated at \$450,000.00.

Now that most estimates are in, the next step is to

have the design and building committees make a floor plan and have drawings made. Renee said the committee has several grants that they have their eyes on once the details are in place. The project also will rely on lots of in-kind donations of volunteer efforts from the committee and the community that will as-

sist in the process. The next part of the series will focus on the structure itself, work that has been accomplished, and big steps in the renovation process that will take place soon as we watch this story unfold and look forward to our town’s history being preserved.

## Their own version



(Center) Sophomores Luke Tullis and Eli Rogers ham it up for the crowd as they sing their own comical version of “Christmas (Baby Come Home)” during the Pre-K-12 Christmas program held on November 30. Plenty more pictures of the fun program will appear in the upcoming Christmas issue. - Jessica Tickle photo

## Off the beaten trail



Traffic on and along a portion of Highway 92 was held up last Wednesday, as hundreds of cattle were herded east through town to new pasture for the winter. The State Patrol helped control traffic as the cattle were kept in line using 4-wheelers. The move happened during Christmas Around Town, so there were plenty of people - and travelers - who had the chance to watch these curious cows as they moved through unfamiliar territory. - Debbie Connelly photo