

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” – Albert Einstein

Blessings In The New Year

2023: The Year In Review

Looking back at the year 2023, many goals were met and achievements were recognized within the community of Arnold. The year 2024 promises much the same, as projects and goals are carried over with unending support from residents - and from those no longer living here who still consider Arnold “home.”

Month by month, we now look back at the year that was and what made the news in The Sentinel.

JANUARY

Residents were being asked to complete a survey as part of the Village's Comprehensive Planning Program.

Chamber officers April Tickle, Tammy Weinman, Ali Rosentrater, Becky Dailey, and Lacy Kramer were looking forward to a new year of focusing on business promotion.

The first historical marker of 2023 would go up at H&O Motor with four photos of how it looked in the past.

The Custer County Foundation awarded a \$5,000.00 grant to Arnold Public Schools to help with the greenhouse project and \$4,000.00 to Finch Memorial Library to help with renovations. Arnold Schools reported later in the month that the greenhouse project topped \$20,000.00 in funding, including a \$7,500.00 grant from the Arnold Community Foundation, as well as other grants coming in.

A-1 Auto expanded its services to a new location on Highway 47.

Peg Scott passed the torch to Donnell DeLosh as the new manager of Country Partners Cooperative.

Jen Dalrymple was welcomed as a new member of the Arnold School Board. Duane Bowers was re-elected president.

Remnants of a snowstorm that dumped a total of 17 inches of snow in the area would be seen well into spring.

FEBRUARY

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department achieved its goal of purchasing a

Stryker Power-Load Cot with several grants.

The Sandhills Open Road Challenge was featured in a “Nebraska Stories” premier on Nebraska Public Media.

Proposed changes to Lower Loup NRD rules and regulations drew attendees from across the District to a series of public meetings.

Three soldiers with local ties, including Brenden Rivers, David Halstead, and Zachary Mitera, were deployed to the Middle East.

Historical marker project coordinator Berni Crow researched the history of the Arnold Rotary Club dating back from 1929 to the present.

Arnold Junior Delaney Rogers gave her testimony before a group of Nebraska senators at the State Capital in support of a bill that would appropriate funds to rebuild the Halsey 4-H Camp after a devastating fire.

The large project of completely renovating the A.H.S. weight room was in the completion stages, headed up by Junior Rio Remund.

One-hundred-seventeen community needs surveys, and 47 workforce housing needs surveys were submitted by the deadline as part of the Comprehensive Plan for the Village, giving residents a voice in the future of the town.

MARCH

The annual Chamber-sponsored Chili Cook-Off drew a large crowd at the community center.

Touch of Grace Massage and Oakbrook PT held their official grand opening in the renovated “old Spargos” building.

Freshman Eli Rogers, a member of the Rotary Interact group, was working to bring the Dolly Imagination Library to Custer County.

Tammy Weinman received the AVFD EMT of the Year award, and Robbi Smith received the Fireman of the Year award at the fire department's annual awards ceremony.

Rotary Interact member Ethan Furne was working on a project titled “Arnold Revitalization Fountains” to clean up the ARA lake.

The Village of Arnold passed a resolution that promised to pave the way for redevelopment in the business area.

Arnold's OID speech team of Ella Cool, Riata Remund, Ivy Tullis, Anna Tullis, and Danah Baldwin brought home the D-2 State Speech Meet Championship plaque.

The Arnold School Board accepted the resignation of Principal Chanc McIntosh.

The turnout for Rotary's pancake feed exceeded anyone's expectations, with a long line forming to help raise funds for the organization's community projects.

The Simulation in Motion-Nebraska truck came to Arnold to give EMTs technologically advanced training.

APRIL

The Village of Arnold was awarded a grant in the amount of \$222,770.00 by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for housing land development.

Arnold's Planning Commission reviewed the results of the 64-page community needs survey completed by Hanna-Keelan Associates PC, with Keith Carl.

The Chamber-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, organized by the National Honor Society, had a great turnout, with hunting areas changed up a bit.

Arnold Public Schools hosted prom, with some 80 Arnold and Callaway students enjoying the theme “Casino Night.”

Delaney Rogers, Trey Connell, and Logan Recoy were selected as Girls and Boys State delegates by the American Legion Post 130 and Auxiliary.

Arnold Rotary unveiled their brand new website.

Arnold School's new track timing system was put to the test at the South Loup Invitational.

The Arnold Board of Education approved a con-



Rotary Interact students represented their organization in the Fall Festival in September. The young people who organized and completed projects in 2023 made a real difference in the community of Arnold. - Jessica Tickle photo

tract to hire Alison Goodenow as PK-12 principal.

Volunteer fire firefighters were taxed to the max, as they battled fires for 14 hours in three different locations.

The Arnold Village signed a sub-award agreement with the State of Nebraska – Department of Economic Development for a Rural Housing Land Development grant.

The town got a spring cleaning at the annual Community Clean-Up Day, with both adults and youth from the school helping local residents and sweeping up Village owned property.

School Board members accepted the resignation of Pat Recoy from the Industrial-Tech position.

Overgrown landscaping at the community center and Koubek Gardens was cleaned up by SunValley Landscaping, LLC.

The Sentinel received three awards in the Nebraska Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

MAY

After renovations were completed, the A.H.S. weight room was re-equipped and ready to use.

Arnold Rotary was named Rotary Club of the Year at the District 5630 Conference. Nicole Badgley was named Rookie of the Year.

Nine seniors received their diplomas at A.H.S. Commencement. Silas Cool was named salutatorian and Lance Jones was class valedictorian.

South Loup athletes were awarded three medals and

broke six co-op records at the state meet at Omaha.

The Village of Arnold voted to increase water/sewer rates after a presentation of the Water and Sewer Rate Study conducted by the Nebraska Rural Water Association.

JUNE

Nearly 300 people attended the annual A.H.S. Alumni Banquet & Program, with co-emcees Dallas Beshaler and Ty Phillips entertaining the crowd. Alice Conner represented the Class of '43, making her the very special guest of the night.

The Arnold Historical committee announced the purchase of the Old Archie's Café building for a museum.

Mary Beshaler was the speaker at Memorial Day Services held at the Arnold Cemetery.

Downtown Improvement Committee members Krista Eggleston and Jodi Carlson were beautifying Highway 92 with new large containers.

Finch Memorial Library's project of restoring the roof with original green clay tiles was completed at a cost of over \$100,000.00.

Attics and garages were cleaned out for the Chamber-sponsored city-wide garage sales.

The Village of Arnold held a special meeting on nuisances with attorney Mike Borders.

Jason Wehnes of Arnold Public Schools was awarded a \$1,000.00 grant in support of APS, Custer County Historical Project.

Over 50 children dove

into Bikini Bottom with Crane River Theater actors who were brought to town as part of the Summer Reading Program.

Swimmers at the Arnold Pool were enjoying the new lounge chairs and donated play equipment. Manager Shavonne Schacher said numbers were way up from last year.

The Arnold Area Historical Society committee hosted a fundraiser at the Legion Hall to raise money for the Cornerstone Campaign of renovating the Archie's building into a museum. One-hundred-thirty people turned out and were offered a peek into the building before restoration began.

Over 30 kids from Arnold participated in Little League, with several sponsors supporting the program.

JULY

Tallin Church combined two events that ended up being billed as “Faith and Fun.” The event, featuring Ron Brown's “Pass It On” Clinic, drew a large crowd to the ARA.

Thirty-one light poles were being painted black – a project of the Highway 92 committee.

Gov. Jim Pillen made Arnold one of his fly around stops to talk about connecting Nebraska.

With a cargo of grapes, a semi caught fire near Lower Powell Canyon Road, shutting down Highway 92 for several hours.

Held at the ARA, the Devil's Den Bike Rally celebrated another year of charitable giving.

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Rotary Completes Improvement Project



A view from the junction of Highway 92 and 47 shows the result of a Rotary community beautification project that was completed in 2023. Irv Jennings, who came up with the idea, Becky Dailey, and Mary Becker approached the Village Board three years ago about putting up a fence to conceal the recycling and dumpster area. The close to \$4,000.00 project was funded by a grant from Rotary International, a donation by R.T. Green, Village funds, and the remainder from local Rotary. Seven local Rotary members provided the labor to put up the green metal fence. “We were surprised by the number of compliments we have received from the community,” said Rotary President Ron Cool. - Debbie Connelly photo