

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Preserving Our Area’s Heritage

Promised artifacts to date are rich in history



By Janet Larreau

Fifth and last in a series on the Arnold Area Historical Museum project.

Preserving our area’s rich history for ongoing generations is one of several goals that the Arnold Area Historical Museum committee is working toward as part of the Cornerstone Campaign. A very limited number of historical artifacts have been gathered so far due to storage issues, but items that have been donated or committed are giving the committee a glimpse into how valuable the museum will be for their preservation.

A great example of sharing the town’s early beginnings and people is a promised donation of five bank ledgers from Kim Beshaler. The first – and largest – ledger has depositors’ names from the very first day Alex Robertson opened his bank on May 1, 1889. Names of

these original depositors include S.E. Allen, John Finch, Ben Hardin, E.G. Mills, J.D. Haskell, A.S. Robertson, and many others. The next two People’s State Bank ledgers are dated 1911 and 1912. The last two ledgers are from the 1930s. The bank closed in 1931 due to the Great Depression.

Kim, who is a committee member, acquired the ledgers from Ken Wehrman, who rescued them when the bank was in the process of remodeling. She said that the second ledger shows many businesses, and that people from other banks – and banks themselves – were depositing into the People’s State Bank in those early years.

Mo and Diane Sanford are donating an old adding machine that was used by Arnold Depot agent Lee Mihane. This early donation will help tell the history of the railroad and its significance to Arnold and the surrounding area.

The Raoul Johnson fami-



A peek inside J. Samuelson’s mailbox from an early Arnold post office will be part of the museum’s exhibits. Many early pioneer names appear on stencils on the top of each mailbox.

ly, including Judy and her sons Raoul Jr. and Marshall, also plan to donate some of Raoul’s train collection to allow the museum committee to set up an operating train display to also help show the history of trains in the Arnold area.

An anonymous donation that has been committed is a foot warmer for the buggy owned by long-time country doctor Bryne Es-cort Robinson, Arnold doctor from 1893-1913.

Jodi Carlson has shared that she will be donating a white metal and glass cabinet and shelf unit that were used in the Arnold Hospital. She purchased them at an auction in Arnold and currently uses them for displaying merchandise at BrewBakers. The committee is hopeful for other artifacts that



An adding machine that was used in the Arnold Train Depot is on the list of future artifacts that will be displayed in the museum.

will help tell the story of the doctors and local hospital that served Arnold through the years.

David Bean reached out and has an original mailbox section that his sister, Debbie Brosius, originally purchased from Hal and Ann Smith at auction. The about 8’x4’ box has the names of early people on the back, including Judkins.

Quite a bit of photos, documents, and stories have been gathered so far, as the committee reaches out to locals and alums to help build a collection about the rural schools and early schools in Arnold. A couple of people have mentioned the possibility of donating school bells from local rural schools.

David Leach spearheaded the project of the 2024



Old bank journals, dating back to 1889, are being kept safe until the opening of the Arnold Area Historical Museum.

historical calendar that highlights 12 of those schools, and the committee hopes to do more. They are still readily seeking information about rural schools but are dependent on those who attended the schools, or had family members who did, to provide the content. Leach is next wanting to do more with old farm pictures and agricultural related photographs or documents that can be scanned and immediately returned.

From far away, Dennis McGuire, who is the town founder’s great-grandson, has been a great resource who has shared information, photographs, videos and more.

The Program and Development committee, led

by Carlene Lanham and Barb Peterson, has done a great deal of research into how other museums gather information and artifacts, what system they use to catalogue the donations, and what criteria they use for determining which items will be accepted. As a result of this research, the committee has decided to utilize the PastPerfect Museum software for cataloging and organizing artifacts, photographs, documents, etc. They hope to acquire this program fairly soon, so they can spend some time learning the system before there is an influx of donated items.

Committee members

See PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE page 2

Setting Students Up for Success

Arnold School’s dual credit program is unique



Debby Moninger instructs a group of seniors in a college-level English class at APS. Her salary for teaching the dual credit class goes towards the students’ tuition, which is unique to Arnold Schools. - Debbie Connelly photo

By Gracie Neth, Sentinel Intern

ARNOLD - Students are taking advantage of Arnold Public Schools’ dual credit program. Taking mostly online classes, 19 juniors and seniors take dual credit college courses through Mid-Plains Community College.

Arnold’s dual credit program is unique because the school pays for the tuition and books, as long as the student gets above a C. This has been a great asset to students, like Silas Cool - class of 2023 - who graduated with 24 college credits.

“I was able to take almost a year of transferable col-

lege classes while still in high school. This opens up the opportunity to graduate early and have more financial freedom,” said Cool.

The dual credit program has changed a lot over the years.

“The biggest change that I have seen over the years is the increased number of students who take dual credit classes,” said Mrs. Nansel, the Arnold High School guidance counselor. “Arnold students are taking advantage of this opportunity because they can graduate high school with 6 or more college credits.”

All sorts of classes are being offered. Classes like

Psychology, American History, and Public Speaking are popular because they fill general requirements.

Grace Bierman said, “It’s nice to take the dual credit classes in high school because we get more help from the teachers here.”

Over half of the senior class is taking advantage of College English, which is a little different than the rest of the dual credit courses because it is in person. Mrs. Moninger teaches English Composition I and English Composition II. Desktop Publishing (dual credit journalism) is also taught in person by Mrs. Badgley. These teachers don’t

get paid from the college. Instead, their salary goes to paying for the student’s tuition.

Another option due to the dual credit program is taking a dual credit class in place of the high school class. Students can take the American History dual credit courses in place of American History 11. Seniors can take College English instead of English 12.

Logan Recoy, a senior, will graduate from high school with 32 college credits, and will enter college as a sophomore.

Junior Riata Remund is on track to graduate with an associates in business management.

Filing Deadlines Nearing for Primary Election

Custer County Clerk Conni Gracey is reminding residents of filing deadlines for the 2024 Primary Election.

There are three open positions on the Arnold School Board, with the terms of Justin Strassburg, Duane Bowers,

and Eric Nelson up for election. On the Village Board, the terms are up for Aaron Olson and Glen Bowers.

Incumbents have until February 15 to file, and non-incumbents have until March 1.

Letters Sought for 2024 Edition of The Alumni News

Planning has started for the 2024 edition of *The Alumni News*. All alumni - especially honored class members - are encouraged to submit a letter telling a bit about their journey in life since graduating or memories of their high school days.

Letters may be mailed to The A.H.S. Alumni As-

sociation, P.O. Box 21, Arnold, NE 69120 or e-mailed to: arnoldalumni@email.com

They may also be e-mailed directly to *Alumni News* editor Janet Larreau at arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line “Alumni Letter.”

The deadline to submit is March 15.

Babies of 2023 Feature Is Coming Soon

The Arnold Sentinel will be featuring the “Babies of 2023” in an upcoming issue.

All readers, no matter where you live, are invited to submit photos and information for the feature, including the baby’s name, birthdate, parents, and grandparents by e-mailing arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the

subject line “Babies” or mail to: PO Box 136, Arnold, NE 69120 or stop by the office.

If you know someone who has had a baby in 2023, you can help us by spreading the word.

The deadline to submit a photo and the above requested information is February 1.

Farm Family Awards Applications Being Accepted

OMAHA, NEB. (January 8, 2024) – The Aksarben Foundation, along with Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, announces that applications for the Nebraska Pioneer Farm and Nebraska Heritage Farm Awards

are being accepted now through April 15, 2024. These awards recognize Nebraska farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land in the same family for at least 100 years (Pioneer)

See FARM FAMILY AWARDS page 2