

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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A Job Well Done

County’s detection dog pays a visit to Arnold Schools



Students were attentive, as Officer Gilligan (pictured) and Officer Cassidy brought the Custer County Sheriff’s Department drug detection dog, “Vader,” to visit Arnold Public Schools. - APS photos

Arnold Public Schools passed the sniff test at the end of January, making it an official “Drug Free Zone.”

Custer County Sheriff’s Department deputies Gilligan and Cassidy brought the county’s drug detection dog, Vader, to Arnold at the start of the school day for a two-hour visit, first introducing him to an assembly of elementary kids, who learned what Vader does. Vader was then taken out into the hall while one deputy hid a substance in a box on the other side of the gym. The kids watched, as Vader sniffed around, found it, and as he is known to do, stared at it.

After the assembly, the entire school placed their backpacks out in the hallway, and the school went into a secure hold. All students and staff were inside the classrooms with all internal and external doors locked and continued with business as usual. Vader then swept the school and grounds for drugs. The only thing found were hidden items that were soaked with the smell of several narcotics spread randomly throughout the school.

“Bringing Vader to the school isn’t necessarily



Sheriff’s officers led Vader down the halls of APS to sniff out different substances that were planted in towels around the school.

annually, it just depends on when they contact us to do it,” said APS Principal Ali Goodenow.

Vader started his duties as the county’s drug detection dog on November 30, 2020. Funding for his purchase, costing \$8,000.00-plus, came from the Sandhills Open Road Challenge (SORC). Now 5-6 years old, Vader has served the county well. The biggest bust he has been involved in was finding 15-16 lbs. of marijuana packed in suitcases inside a vehicle.

“We have had over 85 drug-related calls since Vader has been here, and that doesn’t count help-

ing other agencies. Vader wouldn’t be a part of all of them, but I would say he was involved in easily over half of them,” said Custer County Sheriff Dan Osmond. “Vader is a single-purpose dog, meaning he only sniffs for drugs. Deputy Gilligan has done some tracking work with him, but it’s not a skill he specializes in.”

When Vader isn’t on duty, he lives with Deputy Gilligan.

“He is a very personable dog and loves attention! He works very hard and is good at what he does,” said Sheriff Osmond.

Village Board Decides to Hire Code Enforcement Officer at Special Meeting

Several concerned residents attended a special meeting of the Village Board on January 29 to discuss code enforcement within the city limits.

Chairman Glen Bowers said enforcement of Village ordinances had been discussed at previous meetings, and during those meetings, board

members decided that because the Village does not have a police officer or a code enforcement officer, there needs to be an official complaint filed before action can be taken; however, code enforcement has been brought back up due to recent issues with dogs.

Board member Zach

Hagler said that the Village obviously has a problem with dogs, and it is up to the Village Board to figure out a solution.

A resident asked if everyone in the community knows that dogs are not supposed to run at large. It was suggested that a flyer be distributed to everyone’s mailbox through

every door direct mail regarding specific dog ordinances. That suggestion will be revisited at a later date.

Discussion was held on whether Arnold should hire a code enforcement officer. Hagler said that he is not opposed to that. Village Attorney Mike Borders was at the meeting,

and said that a code enforcement officer would be able to issue citations, but would not carry a gun or be able to arrest anyone. He said the cost for this type of officer would be cheaper than sending complaints for him to process. He also said that he cannot issue citations and that he would have to go through the court system before a fine could be issued. If the decision was made to hire a code

enforcement officer, an ordinance creating the position would need to be adopted. In addition, the Village would need to adopt an ordinance to set up a violations bureau.

With input from residents at the meeting and discussion by Board members, it was decided to pursue getting a code enforcement officer. Borders will draft an ordinance to create the position and to set up a violations bureau.



Top Arnold spellers who competed in the Custer County Spelling Bee held this week are: back row (l-r): Sophia Cool, Makenna Weinman, Berklee Preston, Delanie Weinman, Asher Evans, Ethan Jarmin; Front Row: Scout Evans, Danielle Duponcheel, Addison Dalrymple, Jett Morgan, and Parker Neth. - Gracie Neth photo

B-E-E-ing the Best

Top local spellers move on to County Bee

By Gracie Neth, Sentinel Intern

ARNOLD: On January 30, the school-wide spelling bee took place in Arnold Public School’s gym. Delanie Weinman took home the first place prize on the 21st round with the word ‘mantle.’

Delanie Weinman, Asher Evans, Danielle Duponcheel, Berklee Preston, Sophia Cool, Scout Evans, Parker Neth, Lindsay Christensen, Addison

Dalrymple, Jett Morgan, Ava Bierman, Hudson Vickers, Ethan Jarmin, Austin Davenport, Makenna Weinman, Emmah Clouse, and Avery Corbin all competed on Tuesday.

After 10 rounds, the final five were in place - Delanie Weinman, Danielle Duponcheel, Sophia Cool, Berklee Preston, and Asher Evans.

Finally in the 20th round, the final two got narrowed down to the final one. Asher Evans

misspelled ‘inscrutable.’ In order to win, Weinman had to spell another word right. She got the word ‘mantle’ with the alternate spelling of ‘mantel,’ - and spelled it correctly.

On February 6, ten bright students moved on to the Custer County Spelling Bee. Victor Delanie Weinman, and second placer Asher Evans, accompanied by Sophia Cool, Danielle Duponcheel, Parker Neth, Scout Evans, Berklee

Preston, Makenna Weinman, Jett Morgan, Ethan Jarmin, and Addison Dalrymple, will be competing for the chance to compete in the State Spelling Bee. There are two sets of siblings competing together - Delanie and Makenna Weinman and Asher and Scout Evans.

Results of the county-level Bee - and if anyone qualified to move on to the state competition will be in next week’s issue.

Residents Can Comment on USPS Review of North Platte P&DC

A nationwide study is currently going on in the U.S. to measure the United States Postal Service’s efficiencies and opportunities. North Platte’s Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) is part of the 10-year study and is currently being reviewed.

Public input will be considered as part of the review. Members of the local community, including Arnold, may submit comments at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mpfr-north-platte-ne>. If the facility review supports the business case for change to the facility’s

processing operations, a summary of the MPFR will be posted on about.usps.com at least one week prior to the public input meeting. Thereafter, Postal Service representatives will hold a public input meeting to allow members of the local community to provide their additional feedback and perspectives on the Initial Findings of the MPFR.

To be informed about changes being considered, please turn to page 8 to read the full USPS Notice of Intent to conduct the review.

Chairperson Sought For Easter Egg Hunt

Chamber is in need of someone to chair the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event will be held March 23, with a rain/snow date of March 30.

Included in the duties is picking a destination. President April Tickle said the Hunt has always been held at the city park, but with so many kids now, they have outgrown

fun places to hide the eggs. Chamber would like the new chairperson to be creative and find a new location or look at other options.

Other duties will include creating a poster and working with the Sentinel to design and print, purchase the eggs, candy,

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