

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Champion Coach

Lana Cool (pictured above) is among recipients of the 2023-2024 Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Champions for Coaches award. Lana, who had led Arnold's One-Act team to four consecutive Class D2 State Championships in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, was selected for Play Production.

The Champions for Coaches Program was designed to honor active coaches who go above and beyond for kids and the community. Students, administrators, parents/guardians, and community members were encouraged to nominate coaches that have made a significant impact in their school and community.

The 24 recipients in all NSAA sanctioned activities, will be honored at halftime of the 6:00 p.m. CST Class A Boys State Basketball semifinal games on Friday, March 8, at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln.

- Jessica Tickle photo

Incumbent Filing Deadline For Primary Election Is February 15

Two re-file for school board so far

Another election year is here, giving current board members, and others who wish to serve, a chance to have their name on the ballot.

Custer County Clerk Conni Gracey reported on Monday of this week that Arnold School Board incumbents Duane Bow-

ers and Justin Strasburg have re-filed. Eric Nelson, a third incumbent whose term will expire, had yet to re-file. The deadline for incumbents to file for school board is Thursday, February 15, and for all others, March 1.

Two positions on the Village Board held by Glen

Bowers and Aaron Olson will be up. Filing deadlines for Village are July 15 for incumbents and August 1 for all others.

Anyone who wishes to file for a position can fill out a form at the Custer County Clerk's office. Anyone filing must be a registered voter.

Epic Option Town Hall Meeting Scheduled in Arnold

An Epic Option Town Hall meeting will be held Wednesday, February 21, at the Arnold Exchange.

The topic of discussion will be, "Can you stop paying property taxes and still keep your farm - ranch - home?" Mark Bonkiewicz, spokesman for the 22 member EPIC Option Strategy Team, will talk about how a petition drive can let the voters answer this question. He has been the present-

er at 57+EPIC Town Hall meetings from Omaha to McCook to Chadron.

At the meeting, attendees will:

- Learn how Nebraska property, income, inheritance and state sales taxes can be eliminated
- Learn how our public schools, county, city, and state government will be fully funded
- See how many Nebraska working families will save \$2,000 - \$5,000 taxes

per year

• Learn why there is no EPIC tax on used goods or business-to-business transaction

• Decide if they want to sign the petitions/be trained to be a volunteer petition circulator

A broasted chicken buffet will be available to purchase starting at 11:30 a.m., and the presentation will begin at 12:00 noon.

The meeting is sponsored by area taxpayers.

Fiber Project Is Gaining Ground

Arnold is moving closer to access to high speed Internet

Full fiber connectivity in Arnold is about half-way there, with a completion date set at mid-Summer, 2024. Since late fall, crews have been all over town, painting colored arrows as part of a locating process to identify existing utilities prior to construction, and digging by hand and drilling to bury the fiber. The day or time hasn't seemed to be a factor, as crews have worked late into the night, on holidays, and in all kinds of weather, including sub-zero temperatures.

The contractors have been using the best practices to place the fiber, replacing sod on lawns when the weather was warmer. After construction, Great Plains Communications said that all areas will return to their original state as soon as weather conditions permit.

When the time comes, a phase approach will be used to turn up customers. New equipment will be provided by Great Plains to accommodate the upgraded fiber services for all customers, both new and existing. Customers will be contacted by phone and/or mail and e-mail to alert them to fiber service availability and to set up installation of new services.



The underground fiber construction process started in late fall in Arnold with crews digging holes for fiber all over the town. - Courtesy photo

Veterans Services Issues Discussed at Rotary Meeting

Service Officer Haynes visits local club

On Thursday evening, February 8, the Custer County Veterans' Service Officer (CVSO) from Broken Bow, Emory Haynes gave a presentation at the Rotary Club in Arnold. Emory has been our Custer County VSO for nearly 11 years, and is a United States Air Force

Veteran. He served in the early 1980's, after over a year and a half in USAF technical training, as a Chinese-Mandarin Linguist at Osan Air Base in South Korea. Emory also serves the veterans of Blaine and Loup Counties as CVSO.

Mr. Haynes discussed

the history of Veterans benefits and the duties of County Veterans' Service Officers (CVSOs) in Nebraska. He also informed the Rotary members that he is supported by a 5-member Veterans' Service Committee, which includes Mike Harvey from Arnold, among four oth-

ers from around Custer County.

Among the issues discussed were the application and access processes for VA Health Care, VA Disability Compensation and Pension benefits, Survivors Pension, Dependents Indemnity Compensation, Burial Allowance, Government Grave Markers and other Federal/Local VA Benefits. State

Benefits including Nebraska and Custer County Veterans' Aid Programs were also discussed.

Mr. Haynes also reported that last fiscal year, the total Federal and State Benefits that were received in Custer County totaled \$9,347,000.00 with \$5,067,000.00 of that total being from cash benefit payments paid directly to Custer County Veterans

and/or their survivors.

There are other services provided by the VSO that are not listed here, but those discussed at the meeting are among the most common.

For questions or inquiries into potential VA claims and/or benefits you can call the VSO Office, in Broken Bow at the Courthouse, at (308) 872-2071.



Custer County Veterans' Service Officer Emory Haynes, Veterans Service Committee member Mike Harvey and veteran Ed Pierson were special guests at last Thursday's Rotary Club meeting. - Courtesy photo

Looking Ahead

Pool personnel sought for 2024 season

(Right) In this photo from the Arnold Pool's 2023 season, lifeguard Shayla Tickle teaches a youngster how to backfloat. Many parents from the area took advantage of Red Cross Swimming Lessons and kids and adults enjoyed normal pool hours, thanks to pool personnel. Shayla served as a lifeguard for a few years, but won't be returning this year. She and others who served the community's pool have moved on in life.

The Arnold Village is currently taking applications for pool personnel and response has been slow. There has been one application for manager, one for assistant manager, and two for lifeguards. Clerk Patricia Lambert said last week that at



least four to five more lifeguards are needed in order to open the pool.

The manager and assistant pool manager must have a certified operator's card by opening date of

the pool. Lifeguards need to be certified in first aid, CPR, and lifeguard training. CPR must be renewed annually. For more information, contact the Village clerk's office.