

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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School Moving Forward to Upgrade Safety and Security

Arnold School Board members were kept up to date on projects, accepted a teacher resignation, and hired a new teacher at their regular meeting held on February 13.

Superintendent Joel Morgan reported that six different companies have been coming into the building to do an assessment for new doors, security cameras, controlled access and communications systems and will be putting bids together. The school is looking at potential grant opportunities to offset the cost. The Department of Education has just opened the window to apply for safety and security grants, and a COPS grant will be available in the spring.

He also reported that NSAA is moving forward

with a requirement for shot clocks for boys' and girls' basketball. Given their age, the school is also getting pricing on new scoreboards.

In action items, the Board approved adding a Title/Intervention Teaching position that is essentially a second Title position.

“A lot of students need support, but don't necessarily qualify for Special Education. This will close the gap to get them up to grade level,” said Mr. Morgan.

The resignation of Amanda Badgley was accepted for the end of the school year, and a teaching contract for 2024-2025 was approved for Kelly Morgan, who will take over the Elementary Special Education position.



The South Loup boys' basketball team surrounds (from left) Cal Joy, Denny Olson, Jerry Preston and Darrel Johnson, who are always there to support them - at home or away. - Leta Connell photo

Saying Thanks to Some Dedicated Fans

Four familiar faces seem to always be in the stands

For the past three or four years, a small group of men have been following the South Loup boys' football and basketball teams pretty much everywhere they go. There's two or three generations between the high school athletes and the retirees, but that doesn't matter. As one of the guys said, “It gives us something to do.”

The men, including Jerry Preston, Cal Joy, Denny Olson, and Darrel Johnson, have put a lot of miles on their vehicles, traveling three-plus hours west

as far as Leyton and east as far as Howells-Dodge.

Jerry, Cal, and Denny are all from Arnold. They're not there to watch anyone in particular; they're just there for support. Darrel lives in Oconto, and he hooks up with the other three whenever he can to watch his grandson, Harper Johnson, play ball.

“Last year, when we went to Howells-Dodge in football, is when we really noticed how dedicated they were to watching us,” said senior Trey Connell.

“Every once in a blue moon one of them wouldn't be there for one reason or another, but all four of them are pretty much always there,” said Trey's dad, Casey Connell.

As a way of thanking their super fans, all of the boys involved in the two sports chipped in six bucks a piece and bought four Yeti mugs from Mills Hardware. With permission from Mr. Mohr to use the school's laser, Trey and Bryn Schwarz etched the men's first name and

a Bobcat symbol on each mug. The mugs were presented to the guys after the last regular season home game, as the team gathered around them for a group picture.

“The support that they have given us means a ton,” said Trey. “It's refreshing to know you have your town and a group of people behind you. It's going to be tough to go to college and leave behind such a great support group. We will miss them, no doubt.”

CC Foundation Announces Fall Grant Awards

(Custer County, NE) The Custer County Foundation reviewed grant requests for the period ending October 31, 2023, and they are awarding a total of \$42,450.00 to 10 Custer County organizations.

“It's always an exciting time when we get to announce our grant recipients,” said Lindsay Cook, Executive Director of the Foundation. “The generous support we receive from our donors through our annual Gala & Auction in December enables the Foundation to continue to have a county wide impact through the grants we are able to award.”

The Foundation Grants committee recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, the following awards:

Ansley Food Pantry - \$4,200: To provide food for the backpack program and food pantry.

Arnold Little League - \$5,000: To help purchase a batting cage and pitching machine.

Broken Bow Optimists - \$750: To help purchase flags for youth football.

Broken Bow Wrestling Club - \$3,000: To help with wrestling singlets.

Callaway Kite Flight - \$2,500: To help replace the building for Kite Flight.

Custer County Grange #103 - \$500: To help with

the “Words For Thirds” third-grade dictionary project.

Merna Area Promoters - \$5,000: To help with telescoping flagpoles for the Merna cemetery.

Sargent HS Leadership Class - \$10,000: To help with new bleachers.

South Loup Football - \$1,000: To help upgrade football equipment.

Village of Oconto - \$10,500: To help resurface the flooring in the Community Hall.

The next grant application period ends April 30, 2024. Applications may be accessed online at www.custercountyfoundation.org. When submitting applications, it is important to complete all the requested information and submit a complete application. Incomplete applications may not be funded. Please reach out to the Custer County Foundation with any questions when filling out the grant application.

The mission of the Custer County Foundation is to seek out, receive, and administer funds to meet the present and future needs of the residents of Custer County. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Call the Foundation at 308-872-2232 for more information.

Village Board Approves Little League's Mission to Revamp Old Mill Park

Village Board members gave the go-ahead on two proposals to revamp Old Mill Park at their regular meeting held on February 12. Justin Strasburg, representing Arnold's Little League organization, asked permission to put batting cages on the west half of the tennis courts and to construct a bathroom on the north side of the ball diamond, west of the concession stand and dugout. He said that the bathroom would replace the portable toilets and would need to be a concrete septic tank due to the water table. The Village would be responsible for the electrical, water, and pumping out the septic tank.

Board members authorized Strasburg to proceed with both projects, and asked that he work with Doug DeLaune on the repairs to the crow's nest.

Community Center

Flooring

The Board also voted to proceed with demolition of the existing gym floor at the community center at a cost of \$15,380.00 and the installation of a Taraflex Sports Floor for \$69,152.00. The decision on the installation of an epoxy moisture mitigation system, that would cost an additional \$48,929.00, will need to be made after the demo of the floor is done and the slab has had time to dry out. Core drilling will also need to be done to make sure there is an uncompromised vapor barrier. Midwest Floor Covering submitted the approved proposal for demo and floor covering.

Permission Requested for Corral System

Casey Cozad was at the meeting to ask permission to put a 15x15 enclosed corral system behind his building for a meat shop. The corral would be used

to hold livestock that could not be seen, and the livestock would not be held overnight. Zoning Administrator Doug DeLaune said there are no issues with zoning.

In other business, the Board:

- Decided not to apply for funding for the construction of two single family homes from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF). At the January 9, 2024, meeting AEDC Director Cheryl Carson and Amber Ross of CNEDD presented the NAHTF as an opportunity for the Village to construct the two homes. The pre-application is due by March.

- Designated April as “Community Clean Up Month,” and voted to provide a roll-out container at no charge for the month of April. The date for community-wide clean up will be April 22, with a storm date of Mon-

day, April 29. Volunteers will provide help to those who need assistance on that day. Arnold Chamber will provide a meal for the volunteers, and board members approved providing the refreshments.

- Considered a request from Linda Leeper for the Village to consider at handi bus service. Board members thought it was a good idea, but the Village does not have the funding. They suggested that Leeper contact Callaway District Hospital to see if they would offer this service for Arnold.

- Heard a report from Superintendent Doug DeLaune that Russell Abstracting is researching the ownership of the Right of Way at the northeast corner of Highway 92 and Highway 40 junction. DeLaune said that the Village thought they owned it, but it is listed as owned by the State of Nebraska.

Arnold Community Foundation Fund Seeking Summer Intern

Interns must be selected prior to March 1

Arnold Community Foundation Fund is seeking a paid summer intern, an opportunity made possible through its affiliation with Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) and NCF's Hometown Internship Program which aims to help college students across the state deepen their connection to their Greater Nebraska hometown and contribute to community development efforts at the local and statewide level.

A Hometown Intern is a current college student who has completed at least one year of school-

ing and lives at home for the summer. Students will be compensated for their work (\$15/hour), but housing will not be provided. The intern will be helping with and working on several interesting projects.

Interns must be selected prior to March 1st, so any student interested should contact Holly Remund at 605-350-0064 or hremund@gmail.com as soon as possible. Visit www.nebcommfound.org/hometowninternships to learn more about this opportunity.

Wrestlers Return From State



Junior Dawson Mason (right) goes head-to-head with Logan Spotanski of Arcadia-Loup City in the first round of the Nebraska State Wrestling Tournament, winning by a decision. Mason ended up on the podium in 4th place by the end of the packed tournament held at Omaha. - Photo by Jeremy Buss Photography