

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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AVFD Presents Annual Awards



(From left) 2023 Runner-Up EMT Amanda Wehnes, 2023 EMT of the Year Cassy DeLosh, 2023 Runner-Up Fireman of the Year Dalton Swopes, and 2023 Fireman of the Year Robbi Smith.

By Tammy Weinman

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department held their Annual Banquet and Awards Night on Friday, March 15, at the Legion Hall.

The delicious meal was catered and served by Casey and Nicole Cozad and their crew.

Carlos Barron, paramedic with Priority Medical in North Platte, was the speaker. Carlos also teaches a lot of EMS classes held in Custer County. His message was to be the EMS responder that you want people to say, “I want you to be the one to show up and take care of my family member when I call 911.” Carlos’ wife, Ashley, was also able to join us.

New members inducted were Mike Hanna and Tanner Pehrson.

The 2023 award winners were: EMT Runner-Up of the Year Amanda Wehnes, EMT of the Year Cassy DeLosh, Runner-Up Fireman of the Year Dalton

Swopes, and Fireman of the Year Robbi Smith. These awards are voted on by the members of the department.

Years of Service pins

were awarded to Jacklyn Meyer, 5 years; Rudy Vickers, 20 years; Darren Weinman, 25 years; Robbi Smith, 45 years, and Dell Cerny, 50 years. Dell was given a special plaque for his 50 years of service to the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. Dell was able to have his two daughters, Marcia Gibson and Barb Gunther; his son-in-law, Mike Gunther; and granddaughter Kayli Hamburger, with him to share in this milestone.

A special “Life Saving Efforts” certificate and pin was awarded to eight members. These members were nominated by Loren Eaton, an ALS provider with North Platte Fire Department, for their life saving efforts on call. Those receiving the award were Cam Meyer, Cassy DeLosh, Andrew Tickle,

Dalton Swopes, Brock Dailey, Tammy Weinman, Amanda Wehnes, and BJ Jameson.

Special guests also in attendance were the Custer County Emergency Management crew of Mark Rempe, Corey Clay, Tessa Eggleston, and Brittany Trumbull. Dr. Chelsea Williams, Medical Director for AVFD, was also able to attend, along with her husband Brit.

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department had 15 fire calls and 81 EMS calls for a total of 96 calls in 2023. This equals to 978 hours member put in just for calls over the last year. They also put in over 1,400 hours in department related activities and training hours. The total number of hours members put in for 2023 was over 2,379 hours.

Rotary’s Pancake Feed Is Today

Arnold Rotary will host their annual spring pancake feed, Thursday, March 21, at the Arnold Community Center. Serving will be from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the free-will donation will go towards community projects.

Easter Egg Hunt Set For March 23

Area kids are invited to gather at the Arnold City Park at 11:00 a.m. this Saturday, March 23, for Chamber’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your own bags to collect as many as you can and search for prize winning gold and silver eggs.

Organizers are Kylie Patterson and Macy Koubek, who will have help from the National and Junior Honor Society kids.

A reminder that there will be a tote at the park to donate eggs back to use next year. A tote will also be available at Mills Hardware to donate eggs back for a week after the hunt.

Test Tornado Drill Scheduled for March 27

March 25-29 has been designated as Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week. A test tornado drill is scheduled for March 27 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. Shawn Jacobs, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service in North Platte, said they will not send a test tornado tone alert for the test warning. Instead, they will send the test message out over weather radio in-lieu of their required weekly test and on Slack.

“The reason for this is that some agencies do not have the ‘test’ wording coded into their system. There has been confusion in other states with the test warning being real or not. Schools, organizations, businesses and the public are encouraged to test their tornado plans at the appropriate time,” he said, adding that many communities plan to test their sirens at that point, too.

State-Bound

Ten members of the A.H.S.speech team qualified for state after competing at districts on March 15. Turn to page 8 for results.



Life Saving Effort Award (from left): Cam Meyer, Cassy DeLosh, Andrew Tickle, Dalton Swopes, Brock Dailey, Tammy Weinman and Amanda Wehnes.

School Board Hires Two New Teachers

Several changes coming with internal shifting of staff

Two teaching contracts for the 2024/2025 school year were approved at the March 12 meeting of the Arnold School Board.

Brittany Payne has been hired to teach pre-school. She will be coming to Arnold from North Platte with nine years of experience.

Jaycee Stupka, who is a Gothenburg graduate and who has been a student teacher there, will be teaching 2nd grade.

These two new contracts will result in internal shifting of staff at APS. The current pre-school teacher, Emma Stelling, will move to kindergarten; Mr. Phelps, who currently teaches 6th grade, will move to industrial tech; Mrs. Blowers, who

teaches 4th grade, will move to 6th grade; and Mrs. Rotherham will move from 2nd grade up to 4th grade. Last month, the Board approved moving the current kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Kennedy, into the role of the new Title/Interventionist.

Approval was given for the purchase of a Mimaki printer for School House Graphic Products. The signage printer that is currently being used is about 10 years old. REAP funds will be used for the purchase.

Approval was also given for the purchase of a new Miller welder for the shop class. Funds received from the Nebraska Department of Education that are specific to ca-

reers will be used for that purchase.

With money from some generous local businesses, board members approved purchasing a new scoreboard and shot clock. Superintendent Morgan said the NSAA is moving forward with requiring shot clocks for basketball. With that, the board also decided to purchase one new scoreboard with a stat panel, a regular scoreboard, and shot clocks from a company called Fair-Play. The school secured \$25,000.00 in sponsorships for this project from Arnold Insurance, Pinnacle Bank, and Justin Strasburg of Crop Tech Solutions, leaving the school with a cost of about \$1,000.00.

“Our cost was pretty minimal,” said Mr. Morgan. “We’re pretty excited and grateful for our gen-

erous business owners in town.”

Lastly, board members approved the purchase of new bus barn doors to replace the aging doors that have some issues.

In non-action items, board members discussed ESCO pricing of different companies. ESCO is a process to look at energy savings projects specifically, whether it’s HVAC, windows, doors, or electrical. The school will put out a request to various companies and choose who to work with. When looking at energy projects, architect pricing was brought up in conversation at the meeting. Mr. Morgan said he will research different architect companies to come in and give recommendations on Arnold’s facility.

“We want to make sure we’re looking at every

facet as the board makes decisions on projects,” he said.

In his report, Mr. Morgan told board members that the school is in the final stages of having the greenhouse finished, and an aquatics station is being looked at. The school applied for a safety and security grant through the Nebraska Department of Education, and he is hoping to hear back from them in early April.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a Principal Contract for Ali Goode now at \$92,000.00 a year.
- Approved a lawn care bid with Green Acres. Mills Lawn will provide Total Kill.
- Approved the cooperative renewal for boys’ and girls’ basketball and wrestling.

USPS Releases Initial Results of North Platte P&DC Facility

Public meeting scheduled for March 28

The initial results of the U.S. Postal Service’s evaluation of current operations and potential future uses of its North Platte Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) facility in North Platte were released on March 8.

The results of the facility review support the business case for keeping the North Platte facility open and modernizing the facility as a Local Processing Center (LPC). The North Platte LPC will be a critical node to the unified movement of mail and packages across the regional processing and transportation

ecosystem. The facility will offer expanded and streamlined package processing capabilities in the local market and new workplace amenities for USPS employees – part of the Postal Service’s \$40 billion investment in the nation’s aging postal network.

Additionally, the business case supports transferring some mail processing operations to the Denver P&DC in Denver CO. This would mean a significant percentage of the mail collected locally will travel across the wider USPS transportation and processing network

over significant distances to reach their final destinations in a more efficient manner. Mail and packages destined for outside the local area may receive better service and be more cost effectively distributed by aggregating it with mail and packages from other areas going to the same places that will likewise utilize the wider postal network and be transported significant distances from where the mail originated.

In a March 12 news release, U.S. Senator Deb Fischer said that she is See North Platte P&DC Results, page 2



Work Begins on Hwy. 40

Traffic started being maintained with temporary traffic signals, lane restrictions, flagging, and pilot cars on N-40 South of Arnold on Monday, March 11, as the Nebraska Department of Transportation began roadwork. A 12-foot width restriction will be in effect until construction is completed. Work from reference post 0.5 to reference post 11.10 includes bridge repair, asphalt pavement overlay, earth shoulder construction and seeding. Anticipated completion is October 2024. NDOT also reminds motorists to drive cautiously in and near work zones, buckle up, and put phones down.

- Debbie Connelly photo