

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 107, NUMBER 45



## Where Did The Towns Go?

Piper Strasburg, Asa Starr, Rachel Leetch, and Josie Christensen research extinct towns in Custer County using centennial history books and the town binders as part of a joint English and Geography project. Their teachers, Nicole Badgley and Jason Wehnes, report on the interesting project on page 8.

**Don't Forget!**



**Is Mon., April 22**

Call the Village office at 848-2228 to get your name on the list!

**Hazardous Waste Collection Going on Now**

The Village of Arnold is hosting a hazardous waste collection now through April 30 at the Village street shop. In past years, the Village worked with Lexington Solid Waste Agency to put on the collections, but that service is no longer available. The Village has now contracted with an outside company to provide containers that will be hauled away to continue to provide this valuable service.

Turn to page 8 for a full list of items that can be dropped off.

## Tree Board Will Be Reactivated

Village agrees to work with Rotary in planting new trees

New trees for the Arnold Recreation Area and the reactivation of the Arnold Tree Board were up for discussion at the April 8 Village Board meeting. Mary Becker, who was at the meeting representing Arnold Rotary, said the organization would like to collaborate with the Village in planting trees at the Arnold Recreation Area (ARA). Becker said she plans to apply for an available grant from the Nebraska Forest Service for ten trees, due by May 15. Another upcoming grant that is available is through the Nebraska Arboretum for trees, a drip system, and stump removal. Becker also asked if the Board would consider reactivating the tree board, with the goal of Rotary and the Village

working together to make a long-term plan for trees at the ARA, as well as in town. By a vote, the Board agreed and the following were appointed to the Tree Board: Mary Becker, Kenneth Goodenow Jr., and Peg Scott.

**Burn Barrel Nuisance Discussed**

A resident attended the meeting to discuss the nuisance of fires in burn barrels at 500 South Carroll. Amanda Wehnes said that on February 13, the Custer County Sheriff was called regarding the matter, but found it was not in violation of the ordinance. According to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, fires set to destroy household refuse on residential premises containing ten or less dwelling units

by individuals living on the premises are permitted provided they do not cause a public nuisance or traffic hazard. On March 8 and April 5, there were again fires in the burn barrels at the same location that Wehnes said had an acrid burning smell. She said several people in the neighborhood have health issues and there needs to be something done to remedy the nuisance. The individual who was burning said he had been burning wet bark. He agreed to take the bark to the tree pile and put the papers in the dumpsters. Wehnes asked the Board who she should call if the individual burns again and it causes the same smell. The Board told her to call the Custer County Sheriff.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

The Board considered quotes from Red Willow County for the disposal of household hazardous waste, including paint and aerosol paint cans, pesticides, anti-freeze, household chemicals, batteries, cell phones, and printer ink cartridges. The quote also included a technician to assist with packaging and mileage. The quote was accepted.

**Code Enforcement**

Code enforcement was discussed and Board members were informed that Logan County has been asked and is not interested in contracting with the Village for enforcement. Hearing that, Board members decided to proceed with contracting for an enforcement

officer. Discussion on job duties will take place at the May meeting.

In other business, the Board:

- Passed Ordinance No. 480 to adopt the 2023 Comprehensive Plan and Housing Study for the Village.
- Heard a question from a resident asking why he was being billed for trash fee for both his house and shop since it is all one property. Board members decided since it is all one address, only one trash fee will be billed.
- Heard a resident's concerns about various lots in town that need to be cleaned up. Chairman Bowers said that the Village needs a specific complaint before the Village can proceed.

## Prom Set For This Saturday

Arnold and Callaway juniors will be hosting prom this Saturday, April 20, at Callaway. This year's theme is "A Night in Ancient Greece." Pictures will be taken from 5:15 to 6:30. Prom will be open to the public at 6:45 to get ready for the Grand March that will start at 7:15.

## Spring Music Program

Pre-K through 12th grade students will present their spring concert on Monday evening, April 22, at 7:00 in the school auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

## Tradition Is Being Kept Alive

**100 Years Later, A.H.S. Grads Are Still Reuniting**

By Janet Larreau

*Part II of II on the Arnold Alumni Association Board and how it is keeping the tradition alive.*

In the spring of 1924, 84 people gathered for what would be forever known as the 1st Annual A.H.S. Alumni Banquet. Officers were elected and the Alumni Association was born. In 1940, at the start of World War II, the Association took a break and organized again in 1952. The following decades saw crowds of alums as large as 500 – even up 700 at its peak – reunite in the high school gym to enjoy a meal and some over-the-top programs. One-hundred-years later, the Association and the event still exist because of a handful of people who are passionate about seeing it continue and are willing to face the challenge of changing times.

Back in the day, there were elections of officers, where people threw their hats in the ring for the var-



Board members who are keeping the Alumni Association going are pictured at last year's reunion - a couple of them dressed in the theme "Forever Young." (Back, l-r) Cheryl Mills Uhrmacher, Patty Purcell Goodenow, Kenny Goodenow, Ali Rosentrater Goodenow, Josh Magill; (front, l-r) Tammy Milne Weinman, Darlene Hagler Rimpley, April Mills Tickle, Courtney Beshaler Evans. - Jessica Tickle photo

ious offices and banquet attendees determined the winner. Now a board oversees everything, and the names pretty much remain static. These members face problems that have been looming for years now – less money to work with because more alums are passing away than graduating, rising inflation, and lack of interest by some younger generations.

"When I first started,

parents would pay for all their kids' dues and now they don't, and the kids don't do it themselves. The only time you see them pay their dues is if they show up at the banquet. They may get together, but they don't always come to the banquet," said Patty Purcell Goodenow, Class of '82, who for the past 10 years served as treasurer with husband Kenny, '83.

Back then dues were a

mere \$4.00. Now they're up to \$12.00, and with the rising cost of food and most everything, it's still not enough. To put on even a decent meal, it's at least \$10.00 a plate. With a meal ticket now costing \$13.00, it's just enough to cover the food and all of the decorations. The rising cost of postage is also a big problem.

Is there a different way to do things? Members have discussed every which

way it could be done, but change is hard. Around 300-plus people are still served every year, which is nothing to sneeze at compared to other towns.

"We have always had the banquet set up the same way. Anytime there's a little change, there's a backlash," said Kenny.

Another challenge facing the Association is a need for new faces to serve.

Cheryl (Mills) Uhrmach-

er, '72, a Thedford resident who has been serving on the alumni board for five years, feels it's important to step in and help, no matter where you live.

"Living out of town as I serve as president has not been a problem," she said. "The Alumni Board works well together as a team. We have a text chain on our phones, which makes it easy to communicate. All members make suggestions and give constructive ideas. If the weather or roads are bad, we change the meeting date. Our board is flexible and scheduling meetings has not been a problem. There are so many areas in which people could help with the alumni reunion."

Josh Magill, who graduated in 2004, said he joined because it was "his turn."

"Most of the residents of Arnold who have graduated from Arnold High have had to help with Alumni in one capacity or another. Mike Lucas asked me in 2013 if I would serve on the board for two years and I just haven't left," he said. "There's been a shift in generational values on how to structure events like this. I think that having a board that cares deeply about Alumni is the biggest asset. There are no silver bullets to solve our problems, only golden BBs, and an en-

**See Tradition Alive,**  
Page 2