

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 107, NUMBER 46

Community Tackles Clean-Up List

It was time for Arnold’s annual spring cleaning last Monday, April 22. Adult and student volunteers met at the community center that morning to grab a quick breakfast of donuts, milk, and juice provided by the Village and to receive their list of jobs for the day. With tools in hand and some bottled water, they headed out.

A few stayed behind to wash all of the tables and chairs at the community center; others were picking up trash behind Koubek Gardens, the storage units by the Arnold Medical Clinic, and along the railroad right of way from Mills Hardware on the east side, all the way to the Cool place on the west side of town. Trash bags were filled from the north side of the cemetery fence, the football field, Devil’s Den Lookout, and the ditch on the east side of The Exchange.

Some 22 residential locations that got on the list in the weeks ahead of the

cleanup received a helping hand. At these locations, volunteers completed various jobs, including hauling away household items, sweeping, raking, trimming and cleaning out shrubs and bushes, and hauling away trash and debris. There was also work to do at River-view Apartments, where workers were painting benches and the picnic table.

Village employees were available to pick up items to haul away to the free roll-off that was available all through April. Mike Harvey, who is in charge of the scrap metal drive for the American Legion, said the trailer was filled up several times leading up to Monday, and more was collected that day, which acts as a fundraiser for Legion.

Both Rotary and Chamber members were involved, with Rotarians providing labor and Chamber serving lunch to all of the workers.



American Legion members John Phillips and Mike Harvey help guide Bobcat operator Doug DeLaune as he lowers a large load of metal onto the Legion trailer, early Monday morning at the start of community clean-up day. Also pictured is Steve Graff. - Debbie Connelly photo

Fundraiser for ARA Trees Planned at Rialto

Arnold Rotary will be holding a fundraiser to buy trees for the Arnold Recreation Area this coming Sunday and Monday at the Rialto Theatre. First State Insurance will be sponsoring “The Long Game” - a true story about the 1957 New Mexico High School Golf Championship and the unlikely group of students who won it.

The family movie will only show on Sunday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m., and Monday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m.

Rotary encourages everyone to come out and fill the seats for trees.

Scholarship Renamed In Memory of Mike Lucas

The Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) has renamed its annual scholarship in memory of Mike Lucas.

Mike worked for NeRWA as a Source Water Specialist and Wastewater Technician for 10 years starting in 2010.

“Mike taught many wastewater classes and was always avid about helping people further their education,” said Randy Hellbusch, Lead Circuit Water Rider for NeRWA. “He attended several National Rural Water Conferences and in-services and would never miss a session or opportunity to further his knowledge so he could share it with his peers around the State of Nebraska. Mike retired in 2020 due to health reasons, and unfortunately we lost Mike in May of 2023.”

A 1969 graduate of Ar-



The above courtesy photo shows the late Mike Lucas attending a League of Municipalities Executive Board conference in the late 90s, while serving as Superintendent of Utilities for the Village of Arnold.

nold High School, Mike is also remembered for the goals he achieved as Utility Superintendent of the

Village of Arnold.

“We were honored that they had a scholarship named after Mike because education was so important to him and water were both important issues to him,” said his wife, Marcy. “The young recipients will be the future of water – not just rural, but water in general.”

The NeRWA winners for the Mike Lucas Memorial Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year are: Andrew Brinkmann of Ponca Public School, the son of Steven Brinkmann, Utility Supervisor from the city of Ponca, and Corynn Corbin of Mullen Public Schools, daughter of Tony Corbin, Utility Superintendent from the Village of Mullen. Two alternates have also been named.



Mike’s sister, Betty Jo Rosentrater, and his wife, Marcy Lucas, were present at the 2024 Nebraska Rural Water Conference held in Kearney, when two scholarships were awarded in Mike’s memory. “The conference happened to be on Mike’s birthday, which was kind of neat,” said Marcy.



Callaway senior Maggie Birkel and Arnold junior Riata Remund smile for the camera as Prom gets underway in Callaway last Saturday night. - Jessica Tickle photo

Prom-Goers Enjoy “A Night In Ancient Greece”

Ninety-four Arnold and Callaway students and their dates put on their finest last Saturday night for Prom. After dining and dancing to this year’s theme of “A Night in Ancient Greece,” it was time for the Post Prom Olympic Games. Wearing Greek headpieces and matching t-shirts, many of the kids were draped with several medals after participating in their own Olympic games.

The communities of Arnold and Callaway take turns hosting Prom and After Prom each year and this year, it was Callaway’s turn. The teens signed in, and those who stayed until 2:30 received gifts and prizes - all made possible by student fundraisers and donations from local businesses. Although the event is enjoyed by both schools, the fundraising and purchasing of prizes is separate.

Senior moms Leta Connell and Jessica Tickle were in charge of this year’s effort for Arnold.

“As soon as 2024 After Prom is over, they start fundraising all over again,” said Leta.

Arnold’s three fundraisers include serving breakfast burritos and

cinnamon rolls at the Devil’s Den Motorcycle Rally, offering homemade ice cream and brownies at the SORC barbecue, and hosting the soup and pie supper at community One-Act.

“We have special friends who continue to contribute, even though they have no kids or grand-kids in high school. Joan Smith and Candace Smith make their black walnut and root beer homemade ice cream every year, and Candace offers to make chili soup for the soup and pie fundraiser. We

don’t ever serve their special homemade ice cream, because the drivers know and buy it the gallon. Joan and Candace go above and beyond,” said Leta.

To reach businesses, letters are sent out, and donations come from several surrounding communities. Each year, the Arnold committee makes it their goal to buy gifts and prizes from local businesses.

“It’s those things a young adult needs, but doesn’t think of until they need it,” said Leta.



Jamie Tickle hits the ball in an “Olympics” game of Four Square in the Air during Post Prom.