

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 108, NUMBER 02

Village Board Sets New Rates to Mow Nuisance Properties

Am. Legion will assist with removal of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles

AEDC Director Cheryl Carson gave Village Board members her update at their regular meeting held on June 10. Carson said that she spoke with Mike Harvey about the American Legion assisting people who may not have a way to remove unlicensed or inoperable vehicles from their property. Legion is willing to haul vehicles away at no cost to the vehicle's owner. All that needs to be done is to contact Harvey to set up a time for removal. Carson said this type of assistance will be beneficial to the property owner and will beautify the community. The assistance program will help Legion to obtain funding for the programs they support in the Arnold community.

Carson also gave some information on the Rural Community Recovery Program ARPA. The legislature has made some changes to the program formerly known as the Rural Workforce Land Development Program and has opened it back up for applications. On May 28 she and the CNEDD met with Brittany Piper from the Department of Economic Development regarding the changes and guidelines. Carson completed the letter of intent to apply by the June 3 deadline. This will function as a marker for Arnold to apply if the Board chooses to fill out the full application by the deadline of July 22. She has a project in mind, and if it is an application option, she will give a presentation on the program at the Village's special meeting scheduled for June 24.

Mowing Fee Increase
Board members decided to increase the fee to mow

nuisance properties. The fee will now be \$150.00 per hour plus the cost of any damages to Village equipment. The Village will not be liable for any damages to the property.

Comments From the Floor
During comments from the floor, a resident asked if they are required to put in a written complaint on lots that need to be mowed. Board members said that a written complaint does not have to be filed, but they are encouraged to let the Village know. Another resident mentioned that logos for Village equipment was brought up a while ago, and it would be a good idea. AVFD Fire Chief Andrew Tickle spoke about state statutes on opening burning. At this time, the Village does not have any local ordinances on open burning.

Comments from Village Superintendent
Doug DeLaune reported that the cord to one of the fountains at the ARA doesn't work due to damage from muskrats or beavers. The cost of a new cord is approximately \$2,500.00 and will be included in the 2024-2025 budget.

Village Clerk Report
The clerk reported that an outdoor refrigerated drinking fountain for the swimming pool was ordered from Winsupply. The Arnold Community Foundation will reimburse the Village for the cost. Randy Bailar will install the outlet for the fountain.

Special Meeting
Code enforcement will be on the agenda for the June 24 special meeting set for 7:00 p.m. at the community center meeting room.

Hometown Girl Becomes Hometown Summer Intern

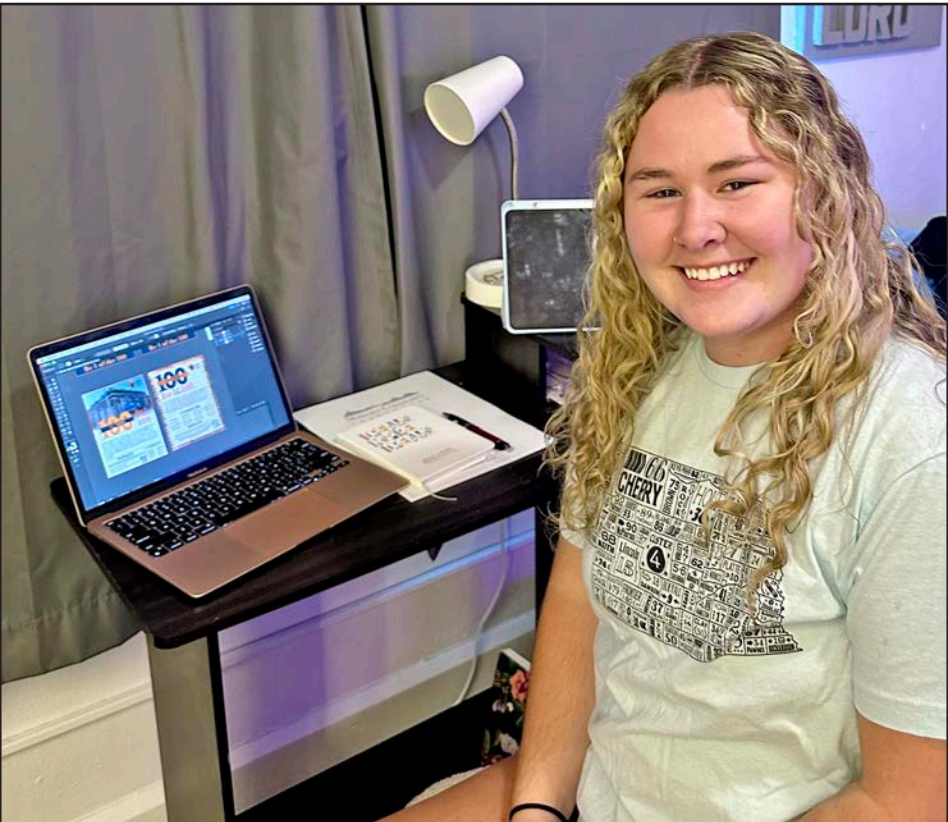
By Janet Larreau

Bailey Schwarz will be working behind the scenes as a paid intern for the Arnold Community Foundation Fund (ACFF) this summer. Bailey, who will be a junior at the University of Nebraska at Kearney studying Visual Communication and Design, applied for the position through the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) 2024 Hometown Intern program. "I applied for the NCF internship because it provides an opportunity for me to stay connected to my hometown and its community. I'm passionate about contributing to improving and preserving the town and its history, especially considering its significant influence in my life," said Schwarz, a 2021 A.H.S. graduate.

Schwarz's main project involves working with the Arnold Area Historical Museum. The work is mainly remote and includes helping with fundraising campaigns, creating social media posts, posters, and other materials that celebrate our community's history, bring people closer to our past and promote the town.

Schwarz attended a two-day peer learning retreat in Ogallala alongside her two supervisors, Holly Remund and Renee Bubak. The retreat focused on exploring the community assets of Ogallala and promoted the interns and supervisors to reflect on their hometowns.

"It provided an opportunity to compare our community with others, leading to a greater appreciation for the unique qualities and offerings of our hometown. The experience was incredibly enlightening and eye-opening," said Schwarz, who described the opportunity



College student Bailey Schwarz is serving the Arnold community as a 2024 Nebraska Community Foundation Hometown Intern. She will be working for the affiliated Arnold Community Foundation Fund, her focus will be working with the Arnold Area Historical Museum.

to be an intern as inspirational. "I've talked to many other interns from Greater Nebraska and learned about the things that make their communities great and the plans they have to improve them. The aspect of community in the NCF internship has stood out to me; it was very interesting and inspiring to see so many people my age willing to go back to their hometown and help improve them."

Schwarz said she considers her hometown's greatest assets to be the several different parks, Rialto Theatre, the small businesses and the historical signs to teach the history of the town to newcomers and all generations of Arnold.

For a place to call home in the future, Schwarz said she is looking for a sense of community, comfort, and belonging.

That includes a safe environment, employment opportunities, friendly communities, access to sports facilities, clubs and recreational activities, along with a presence of a strong support network of family and friends.

"I can see myself liv-

ing in Greater Nebraska or Arnold in the future. I think that being at a young age, I would like to experience living in a different state. When it is time to settle down, I would like to live and raise a family in Greater Nebraska," she said.

Donations Needed for Fireworks Display

This year's public 4th of July fireworks display promises to be loaded with new stuff.

"Usually, I incorporate old with new, but this year it's almost all new," said Barb, who chooses and orders the fireworks.

Residents are encouraged to donate to the fireworks fund by stopping in at Pinnacle Bank, contacting Barb at 308-636-6068, or scanning her Venmo located at a few places around town. A bucket

will also be passed around during the display.

"With rising costs, it takes donations to keep the show as it is now," said Barb.

Aardvark Hunt on the 4th

Tiff Varney is giving everyone a heads-up that he will hide the aardvark on the morning of the 4th. Permits can be purchased at Pinnacle Bank, First State Insurance, Brew-Bakers and Four County Boutique.

Olofson Remembers Grandpa's Farm

By Janet Larreau

The late Darrell Olofson taught his granddaughter, Shandell, a lot. A published author, he even passed his love for writing down to her.

"My grandpa was an amazing man. He was so smart and full of wisdom. When we were children, he would have us help him in his shop. One of my favorite things to do was braiding the leather straps that he would use for his saddles and other things he would make. I remember visiting one year, and my grandmother showed us a copy of his short stories that he wrote. I remember grabbing it and sitting and reading and laughing and smiling the whole time. He was amazing at expressing himself, and I remember being so happy for him that he fulfilled one of his dreams in writing short stories," said Shandell.

Now a Chicago resident, Shandell has penned her own book, "A Cowboys Dream." In the story, children are introduced to a farm boy named Darrell, who tells about his dream of training wild horses

and goes on to train a horse named Buck.

"My grandmother passed away July of 2023, and in late August, I had a dream. I woke up with an overwhelming feeling that I had to write a book. I wrote it rather quickly, like the words were already in my mind ready to come out," she said.

The artwork for the book came later, after Shandell did some research and found a way to put her vision down. She finished the book in May 2024. She then decided to also create a coloring book filled with farm animals and cowboys titled "Darrell's Farm Coloring Book."

Shandell remembers Darrell and Maureen's farm well. After being hit by a car when she was a child, she spent two months in the hospital and ended up living there for a time. She attended Arnold Public Schools in 1994 when she was in the fourth grade.

"I needed lots of help, so my grandparents took us in to help my father, Michael, take care of me. I had lots of doctor's appointments in Denver that I had to be driven back and forth to, and my grandmother took me to



Chicago resident Shandell Olofson has published both a book and a coloring book to honor her grandfather Darrell Olofson's memory. She hopes to return to Arnold one day so that her four children can also experience the Olofson farm.

- Courtesy photo

those appointments," said Shandell, who now has four children of her own and lots of nieces and nephews.

"My grandfather taught

me that no matter how tired you are, you can still have fun and enjoy life. My grandmother taught me that it's okay to be afraid to do something, but to



Shandell recalls memories of living on her grandfather's farm as a child in both books.

take that leap, because the jump is the scary part. I hope to teach my children the same wisdom that my grandparents taught me," she said.

Someday, Shandell said she hopes to have a book full of pictures and memories so she can share with her children what it was like growing up on the farm and living that small town life. She wrote "A Cowboys Dream" for them, for children who are living on a farm, and for those children who are now adults and can look back and remember.

"I may have moved to the big city, but I can still remember how it smells right before it rains on the

farm. I can still remember how the farm sounds on a summer night and looking up seeing the beautiful sky full of stars. I can still remember going to church on Sunday and eating the delicious pies and food of all the wonderful people of the small town of Arnold, Nebraska. I can still remember the waves and smiles and the friendly faces. I still remember how proud I am that my grandfather's father chose Arnold to live in," she said.

"A Cowboys Dream" is now available for sale on Amazon.com and is also available on Kindle.