

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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A rootin’ tootin’ good time Hillbillies rule at Saturday’s Fall Festival



There was a whole lot happening on the “Hillbilly Therapy and Spa” float. A stationary bike powered a foot bath, a mud bath with a real live pig, and a flip-flop massage just to name a few. To no surprise, Touch of Grace and Oakbrook PT won the first place prize for Best Decorated Float. - Debbie Connelly Photos



Mike and Barb Gunther received the award for Best Dressed Hillbilly.

By Janet Larreau

The community came together last Saturday to take in all that the 2024 Arnold Fall Festival had to offer, from Rotary’s fun run/walk in the early morning, to games for

tikes up to adults running into the late afternoon. The main event was the parade that drew some 25 entries, with well over 100 people riding all manner of vehicles. RT Green, who is credited with bringing the festival back

to life in 2022 with kindred spirits Della Dailey and Robin Dailey, said he thought it was one of the best parades he’d seen. The North Platte Shriners Club made an appearance this year, bringing their 4-wheelers and spinners,

and a majority of the entries centered around the theme of “Hillbilly Bash,” with imaginations running wild. Going down the route as Piper Strasburg announced, were: Legion, North Platte Shriners,

Tangwall, South Loup youth football, South Loup 4-H, Nansel’s Best Service, Arnold Sentinel, Green Acres, Echo Pelster, Basketball Bible Camp, Oakbrook PT, Touch of Grace, Tanya Storer, KCNI, Nails for Starz, Darren Weinman,

Devil’s Den Bike Rally, SORC, Country Partners, Mills Hardware, Baptist Church, Glen Weinman, Pinnacle Bank, and Kubota. Making the biggest noise at the end of the line was the Arnold Fire

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Projects Discussed at Village Board Meeting

Community projects and several other agenda items were discussed and voted on at the Village Board’s regular meeting on September 9. Ethan Furne was at the meeting to discuss a proposed Central Nebraska Interact Club (CNIC) project of changing the tennis courts at Old Mill Park to pickleball courts. Furne said he would apply for grants for costs associated with the project, including patching the concrete, painting, and new nets. Board member Donnell DeLosh thanked Furne for taking on another project, but said the Board is getting a quote from Casey Connell for a fence for the pickleball court on North Carroll Street, and he would like to see the project focused on that location. The question came up of whether or not patching the concrete for a smooth

surface would work for pickleball and tennis. Board members said it would only be a temporary solution. Board member Jason Jenkins suggested checking into Sport Court, consisting of squares of tiles that fit together and are placed on top of the concrete. Furne said he would do more research on the project. The CNIC project will be on the agenda of an upcoming meeting. Board members then voted to contract with Casey Connell to remove the fence at Old Mill Park and install it at the tennis/pickleball court on North Carroll Street. Tree Board Report Representing the Arnold Tree Board, Mary Becker said that the trees for the Nebraska UCF IRA Grant will come from Kennedy Landscape. This grant provides funding for planting the trees.

The tree board has been talking to homeowners whose trees have been selected to be cut down and stumps removed, and five out of the nine homeowners have already signed the Release of Liability form. The trees for the Ten Free Trees Fall Grant will be from Sun Valley Landscape; the trees will be planted at the Arnold Recreation Area (ARA). She mentioned that the program does not provide funding for planting the trees, so she has asked Sun Valley Landscape for a bid that will include a drip system. Becker went on to ask permission to attend the Trees, People and Towns Conference that will be held at UN-L in October. Board members voted to pay the registration fee and for lodging for Becker to attend the conference. In other business, the Board:

- Considered selling the bleachers at the ARA roping arena, but decided not to sell them.
- Voted to appoint Tory Edwards as the Designated Operator (DO) in charge of the water system.

- Accepted the quote of \$2,631.02 from Midwest Floor Covering to add pickleball court lines to the community center floor.
- Accepted a quote of \$3,240.59 from Living Water Aeration for a power

cord with stainless steel cable shielding for the Otterbine Fountain at the ARA.

- Discussed an interim administrator/village superintendent position; discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Arnold Museum Kicks Off \$100,000 Renovation Fundraiser Campaign

ARNOLD, NE - After reaching its first year milestone, the Arnold Area Historical Society (AAHS) is kicking off a \$100,000 museum renovation fundraising effort. The 100 for \$1000 campaign is being introduced to potential donors this week to help further restore the historical cornerstone in downtown Arnold and establish the future museum site. Individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses are challenged to pool their resources to contribute at least \$1000 to reach the goal of 100 donations. Contributions are suggested in honor of, celebration of, or in memory of a person, family, organization, or business. “By doing the simple math, if 100 donations of \$1,000 are given, another \$100,000 will be raised for the old Archie’s Cafe building,” said Renee Bubak, AAHS Chairperson. “Of course, donors can give more than \$1,000. Each additional \$1,000 can be given in honor/celebration/memory of an additional person.” The fundraising has a great start with over \$10,000 in donations committed. The following groups have already contributed to the campaign: Elizabeth Romano in honor of Bud and Ellen (Sue) Beshaler, Arnold Class of 1964, Arnold Winsome Inn in recognition of Lois Johnson, Corbin Family, Craig & Pam Smith in honor of Don Smith, Dallas & Shelly Beshaler in honor of Ryan Beshaler, the 72 Ranch (Mildred

Smith) in honor of Don Smith, and Rick and Kim Beshaler in honor of Ryan Beshaler. “We are hopeful that the generous spirit that led to the building of a community center and the revival of the Rialto Theatre will inspire the same support for this community landmark renovation,” said Kim Beshaler, AAHS Board member and campaign contributor. “It’s even more significant for us to do so on behalf of our son Ryan.” Holly Remund, owner of the Arnold Winsome Inn agreed, “Lois Johnson is such a monumental philanthropist in our community. We saw this as an excellent opportunity to recognize her with our donation while impacting a valuable asset in our community.” The AAHS looks forward to recognizing those that contributed to the fundraising efforts.



There will be a plaque that commemorates those generous donors who kept the wheels rolling on this incredible brick by brick renovation. Additional campaign details are included in an insert in today’s newspaper or can be found on the Arnold Area Historical Museum Facebook page. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 241, Arnold NE 69120 or can be delivered directly to Becky Dailey at First State Insurance. The Arnold Area Historical Society is a 501(C)3 corporation and all contributions are considered tax deductible.



With (from left) AEDC board member Karen Horst, husband Eric Nelson, and speaker Liam Atchison looking on, Lisa Nelson cuts the ribbon for her expanding business, Dahlia Valley Ranch, on September 13 at her storefront in downtown Arnold. - Debbie Connelly Photo

Business Expansion Celebration

Plenty of local supporters were on hand last Friday to help owner Lisa Nelson celebrate the expansion of her business, Dahlia Valley Ranch. Director Cheryl Carson planned the downtown ribbon cutting and the luncheon and tour that followed at the Mills Valley site. Growing around a dozen or so varieties of flowers, Nelson established the business at her farm

home in 2021, and on October 1st, will celebrate the 1-year anniversary of opening her storefront in Hotel Custer. Nelson said Dahlia Valley Ranch has expanded into more weddings, bulk blooms, and selling wholesale to florists. She has also purchased a design studio and added it to the farm, where she can create custom arrangements and do other floral work in its own space.

The AEDC helped finance the studio with a business loan and an accompanying grant. She has also opened up to more Sip n Snips and wants to delve more into agri-tourism, eventually making the farm a destination for bigger events that will include a gourmet supper with flowers, a pumpkin patch, and sunflowers.

Early Voting Ballot Requests Begin in CC

Custer County Election Commissioner Constance Gracey said last week that early voting ballot requests for the November 5 General Election are being received. You can apply for an early-voting ballot by contacting Gracey at the courthouse, or print an online early voting application. Please remember to write your driver’s license/state ID number on the application or attach a copy of an acceptable form of

photo ID or reasonable impediment certification. The last day for an early-voting application to be received is 6:00 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election. Gracey said the ballots should be ready to be mailed out on October 1. October 7 will be the first day for in-person voting at the clerk’s office. The day before the election is the last day to vote early in person.