

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 108, NUMBER 16



A new aluminum door was in the process of being installed on the south side of the high school Friday of last week. At this stage, all but a couple of the exterior doors on school grounds had yet to be replaced, with controlled access in the early stages. - Debbie Connelly photo

New Doors Project Paves Way for Controlled Access at School

Arnold Public School is on its way to becoming a controlled access facility. Installation of new aluminum doors on the main building and hollow-frame steel doors on the shop building has been taking place over the past few weeks. At the end of last week, the last two doors were going in, and within a couple of weeks, all doors at the school will

have controlled access technology. Superintendent Joel Morgan said the main purpose of the project is to make sure all of the school's exits are secured. Once the technology is set up, all staff and students in Grades 6-12 will have ID badges that will serve as their key card access. Access time will be restricted for students

to the scope of the school day. Fire and rescue, the sheriff's office, and state patrol will also be issued ID badges to allow them access. "We'll know who is coming into the building at set times and if doors are being propped open. Basically, we'll be setting the time when people can utilize their keycard for access," he said.

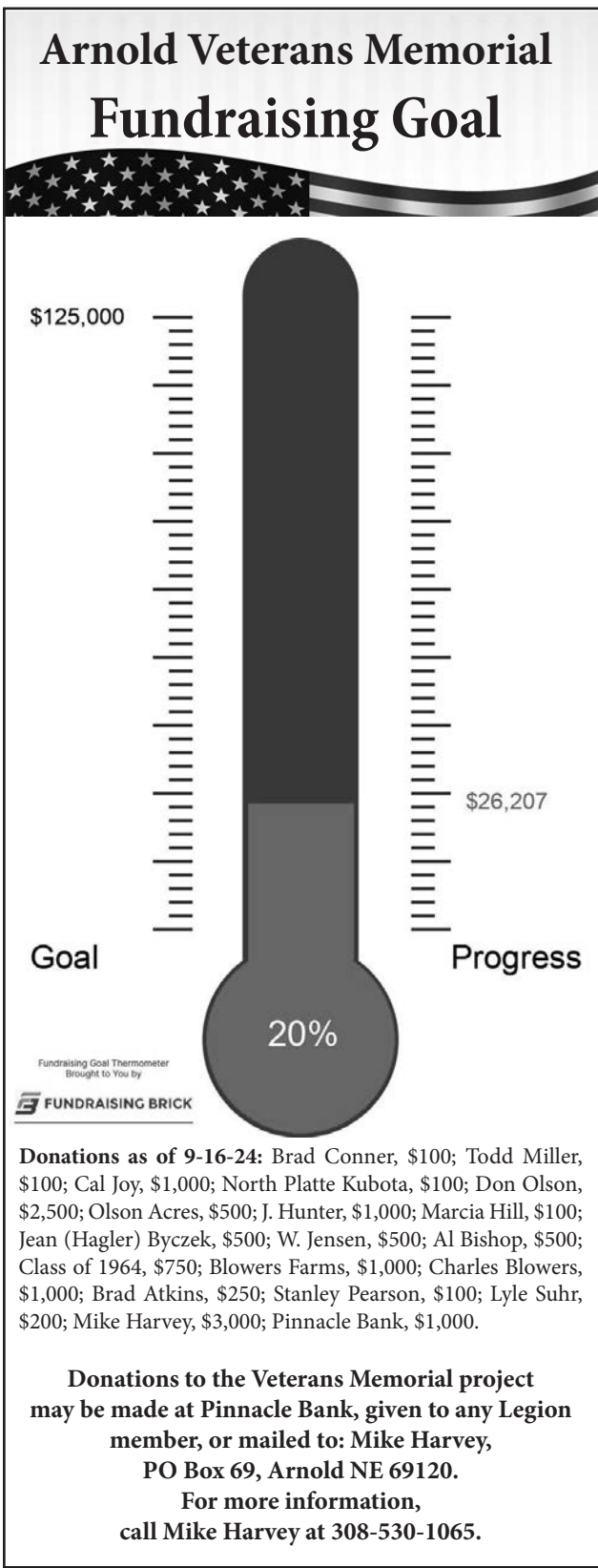
Fundraising Continues for Veterans Memorial

The school has added another set of double doors inside the main entrance, where they will be buzzed in by the office. If no one is available, visitors will also be able to communicate through a video intercom to gain access. The total cost of the project is right around \$160,000.00. The school received an \$83,000.00 safety and security grant to offset the cost, and the remainder was paid out of special building funds that were already in the account.

If all goes as planned, organizers of Arnold's Veterans Memorial project are planning to pour cement this week on a plot located at the intersection of Highway 92 and 40. Once complete, the memorial will be visible to all traffic coming through town. Twenty percent of the \$125,000.00 project goal has been raised through private donations so far, and it is hoped that more support will be shown in the coming days and weeks to see the project come to fruition. A fundraiser thermometer (pictured below) will keep everyone up to date as more donations come in.

Junk Jaunt Is Coming

Another Arnold vendor has signed up for the Junk Jaunt, making a total of 12 in town that will be participating beginning this Thursday, September 26, through Saturday, September 28. The late registration comes from Travis Brohman, who will be having a sale at 905 N Carroll. All other vendors and a map were listed in last week's issue. During the three days of the Nebraska Junk Jaunt, Arnold will see an influx of "junkers" coming through town to stop at the vendor locations on their way to the main loop.



School Enrollment Remains Steady

One-hundred-eighty five students are enrolled in Grades K-12 at Arnold Public Schools for the 2024-2025 year - the exact number enrolled at this same time last year. The total number of preschoolers is 20 - up five from last year. Following are the number of boys and girls in each grade and their total:

Elementary Kindergarten	Girls.....4	Boys.....6	Total.....10
First Grade	Boys.....12	Girls.....5	Total.....17

Second Grade	Boys.....9	Girls.....11	Total.....20
Third Grade	Boys.....8	Girls.....5	Total.....13
Fourth Grade	Boys.....6	Girls.....7	Total.....13
Fifth Grade	Boys.....5	Girls.....6	Total.....11
Total Elementary	Boys.....44	Girls.....40	Total.....84
High School Sixth Grade			

Boys.....7	Girls.....9	Total.....16	
Seventh Grade	Boys.....7	Girls.....8	Total.....15
Eighth Grade	Boys.....10	Girls.....7	Total.....17
Freshmen	Boys.....7	Girls.....7	Total.....14
Sophomores	Boys.....4	Girls.....9	Total.....13
Juniors	Boys.....8	Girls.....5	

Total.....13	Seniors	Boys.....4	Girls.....9	Total.....13
Total High School	Boys.....47	Girls.....54	Total.....101	
Preschool (2 Year Out)	Girls.....4	Boys.....11	Total.....15	
(1 Year Out)	Girls.....4	Boys.....1	Total.....5	
Total Preschool	Girls.....8	Boys.....12	Total.....20	

School Utilizes Dogs to Benefit Students, Staff



Superintendent Joel Morgan introduces Arnold School's new therapy dogs to preschoolers last week. - Courtesy photo

Two furry friends can be found resting in Superintendent Joel Morgan's office these days, but only when they're not at work. Annie, a 4-year-old Goldendoodle, and the yet-to-be-named 3-month-old Bernedoodle puppy, will be serving all of Arnold Schools as what is known as therapy dogs. They join a growing number of dogs in the U.S. that are being used in many different settings to help their human counterparts. "It's something that we brought up around three years ago at board meetings. We looked at different companies and different options, and were on a waiting list, but nothing happened," said Mr. Morgan. Sadly, last winter, Mr. Morgan had to put his own 15-year-old dog down. He decided to go a different route and find one for home and to utilize at the school and began research on hypoallergenic dogs that have little to no shedding. Doodle-mixes popped up as breed most frequently used.

"I originally went in thinking I was only going to get a puppy, but the owner also had Annie, who needed re-homed. She thought Annie would be a good fit," he said. The dogs spent last week getting adjusted to the school's surroundings. The puppy, who is around 15 lbs., and Annie, at 30-35 lbs., arrived at school in the morning with Mr. Morgan and followed him around the buildings, and kids stopped in his office to say hello during the day. The dogs were also seen running around the school with secretary Heather Hagler. In the coming weeks

and months, the dogs will work closely with students to help them grow both academically and behaviorally. This will be done in classroom settings and scheduled one-on-one times with students. Mr. Morgan, who will be the primary handler, said the kids are pretty excited. "We'll be thinking about which students will benefit the most from this, and we'll learn that others can also benefit. I'd like to see them be a part of our students' lives in as many ways as possible. The dogs can have an impact on anybody on any given day," he said.

Benefits of having a therapy dog at school:

- Cognitive: Companionship with a dog stimulates memory and problem-solving
- Social: A dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion; encouraging responsibility, wellbeing and positive interactions
- Emotional: A dog at school improves self-esteem, acceptance from others, lifts mood, can help teach compassion, empathy, and respect for others
- Physical: Interactions with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation and often provides motivation to complete tasks