

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Arnold Village Records 86% Voter Turnout

2024 General Election one for the record books

By Janet Larreau

It was a busy day for poll workers at the Arnold Legion Hall on November 5, as they handled one of the largest turnouts in recent memory for a General Election.

“At 20 ‘til 8 they were coming,” said Dru Magill, who with lead poll worker Merri Jo Halstead, Pat Scott, and Carlene Lanham, checked every name in the registration book and each voters photo I.D. before handing them a ballot. “There were people who said they had never voted before. There were young people bringing their babies. It showed the intensity of how badly people wanted to vote.”

At 8:00 a.m., Magill announced, “Hear ye, hear ye, the polls are now open!” and from that moment, to when the polls closed at 8:00 p.m., 402 registered voters cast their ballot. Counting 58 early voters and 4 provisional ballots, and with a possibility of 537 registered voters, the 2024 election in the small Village of Arnold had an 86% turnout.

The intensity of voting here mirrored everywhere else in the nation as citizens voted for change. County-wide, there was a 76% turnout, with results

still unofficial as of Friday, November 8.

Custer County residents overwhelmingly voted for the Republican Trump/Vance ticket over Dems Harris/Walz, 4,996 to 783. The vast majority also helped Republicans, Deb Fischer, Pete Ricketts, and Adrian Smith keep their seats in the Senate and House, and Tonya Storer in her bid for Legislative District 43.

County-wide, the majority of voters agreed with state-wide results on two competing Initiatives on the issue of abortion. Initiative 434, limiting abortion after the first trimester, won by a margin of 55.32% for, and 44.68% against. Initiative 439, which would have created a constitutional right to abortion, failed by 48.55% for, and 51.45% against.

Initiative 437, legalizing medical marijuana, won statewide, 70.74% for, and 29.26% against. Initiative 438, regulating the medical marijuana industry, also won, 66.95% for, 33.05% against.

Initiative 436, requiring paid sick leave, won 74.27% for, 25.73% against.

Referendum 435, authorizing a scholarship program for private schools, failed, with 42.94% voting to retain and 57.06% voting to repeal the program.



Registered voters in the Village of Arnold began casting their ballots at the Legion Hall at 8:00 a.m., on November 5, in the General Election. Poll workers were kept busy through the close of the polls, with what could be one of the biggest turnouts. - Debbie Connelly photo



Bill Miller was the oldest male voter.



Danah Baldwin was the youngest voter.

## Village, School Board fill open seats

At the General Election, two candidates ran for the two open seats on the Arnold Village Board. Incumbent Glen Bowers had 190 votes and non-incumbent Austin Snyder had 269.

Residents also voted to fill three open seats on the Arnold School Board. Long-time board member Duane Bowers garnered the most votes with 371, and incumbent Justin Strasburg had 364.

Non-incumbent Bryce Nansel earned a place on the Board with 325 votes cast for him, which was a very tight race with Kenneth L. Goodenow, Jr., who garnered 323 votes.

The town of Sargent vot-

ed on a bond issue for a new pool, with the bond failing by only one vote. As proven in both these elections, every vote does matter.

## School, Community Honor Those Who Served

American Legion Post 130 and V.F.W. hosted their annual Veterans Day program a little early this year, on Friday, November 8. This year the students not only participated in the program, but also gave to a Legion project that is underway in the community. The presentation of a \$500.00 check to the Veterans Memorial was one of the highlights of the program.

Students and faculty in all grades helped raise the money just days before the program through the Jr. Honor Society's fundraiser of Break the Rule Day and National Honor Society's fundraiser of selling and applying temporary tattoos to the students.

When presenting the

check, senior Riata Remund said, in part, “This year, our National Honor Society chapter has come together with a special purpose: to raise funds for the Veterans Memorial that will stand as a lasting tribute to these heroes. This memorial will serve as a reminder of their sacrifices and as a place for future generations to reflect on the courage and resilience of those who fought for our country.”

“It’s truly inspiring to see how everyone, from our youngest students to the high schoolers, came together to show their support for our veterans. These efforts remind us that small actions can have a big impact, and that we all have a role to play in honoring those

who have sacrificed for our freedom.

“As we move forward, I encourage all of us to continue supporting this memorial project, not just with donations, but with our time and energy, remembering that it’s not just about raising funds - it’s about showing our veterans that we care, and that we will never forget the sacrifices they’ve made for us.”

“Thank you to everyone who has contributed, and thank you to our veterans for your service. Together, we can ensure that their legacy lives on for generations to come.”

A good crowd of students, faculty and residents were in the school’s auditorium for what turned out to be a great

program.

Honor Guard posted the Colors, followed by the 7th-12th grade choir singing the “The National Anthem” beautifully. Legion member John Phillips gave the welcome, and students took their turn in honoring our veterans. The kindergarten class recited the Pledge of Allegiance, 1st graders sang a song, 4th graders recited their own poems, 2nd graders recited the *Veteran’s Acrostic*, the 7th-12th grade choir sang “Song of the Unsung Heroes,” and 6th graders gave a demonstration of the 13 folds of Old Glory.

Vietnam veteran Gene Tullis presented 8th graders Jett Morgan and Claire Kulp 1st and 2nd place awards in the an-

nual V.F.W. Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest. He gave Darlene Rimpley, who was hospitalized at the time, an emotional thank you for her help in selecting the essay winners all through the years and for serving in Auxiliary.

John Phillips introduced speaker Marcia Hora, who told about the history of Veterans Day and concluded her speech by asking veterans to stand and be recognized.

The program closed with the 7th-12th grade band playing “America the Beautiful.”

Mrs. Berglund and her K-12 art students created patriotic themed art work that was displayed in the gym, and a 7-12 art project was a collaborative piece.

**“It’s truly inspiring to see how everyone, from our youngest students to the high schoolers, came together to show their support for our veterans.”**

- Senior Riata Remund speaking on fundraiser for Veterans Memorial

“This year’s program was amazing,” said Honor Society sponsor Debby Moninger. “It is so nice to have a music program again. Both the chorus and the band had wonderful songs. Each of the grades had aspects of the program that were touching.”



Representing the National Honor Society, Riata Remund presents John Phillips a check for \$500.00 for the Veterans Memorial project during Friday’s Veterans Day program. Both NHS and Jr. Honor Society (represented by Claire Kulp, left) held school-wide fundraisers to raise the money just days before the program. - Debbie Connelly photo



Ella Cool applies temporary tattoos to some very willing kids at the N.H.S. fundraiser for the Arnold veterans memorial. - APS Photo