

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024

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A Banner Year

ACFF Fundraiser & Auction raises more than \$77,000



The community center was packed, and bidding was brisk at Saturday night’s annual Arnold Community Foundation Fund Fundraiser & Auction, as residents raised their hands to support their town. - Courtesy photo

By Amanda Wehnes

It was an evening of fellowship, fun, and celebrating the great things happening in our community during the 2024 Arnold Community Foundation Fund fundraiser and auction on Saturday. This annual event held at the Arnold Community Center raises funds for projects

supported by the ACFF and honors the work done by individuals and groups in the community. This year was a banner year, raising more than \$77,000 for projects that positively impact the community and its residents. Recent projects include support for the Arnold Historical Museum project; painting light poles

along Highway 92 in Arnold; providing administrative support to the Custer County chapter of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library; postage to mail the annual alumni letter; a new drinking fountain at the swimming pool; gun club facility upgrades; and much more. Each year the ACFF also honors individuals and

groups that demonstrate a philanthropic spirit and work to make Arnold a great place to live, work, and play. These individuals and groups are volunteers within the community that have contributed significant time, talents, and resources to the improvement, promotion, and health of the community.

The Arnold Chamber of Commerce was named the 2024 Philanthropic Group of the Year. ACFF board member Renee Bubak led the attendees in an interactive history of the Arnold Chamber, asking those who had participated in Chamber-sponsored events to stand. These events ranged from the demolition derby of the 1980s to the street carnivals and parades of the 1990s and to more current events including the housing tours of the 2000s and the crowd favorite chili cookoff and the revamped fall festival. Currently the Arnold Chamber boasts membership of more than 50 individuals and members and sponsor some of the most popular events in Arnold each year - Chili Cook Off, Christmas Around Town, Halloween Trunk or

Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, SORC barbeque, Fourth of July fireworks, Chamber Bucks giveaway, and community-wide garage sales. Membership in the Chamber is open to any business or individual who wishes to join. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Andrew and April Tickle were named the Philanthropists of the Year for 2024 by the ACFF. The Tickles have spent a good portion of their adult lives serving the community of Arnold through multiple agencies. Combined they have nearly 30 years of service in the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department, both as firefighters. See BANNER YEAR Continued on page 4

Custer County Foundation Awards Fall Grants

(Custer County, NE - November 21, 2024) The Custer County Foundation reviewed grant requests for the period ending October 31, 2024, and they are awarding a total of \$69,074 to 14 Custer County organizations. “It’s always an exciting time when we get to announce our grant recipients,” commented Rilee Daffer, Executive Director of the Custer County Foundation. “The generous support we receive from our donors through our annual Gala & Auction in December enables the Foundation to continue to have a county wide impact through the grants we can award.” The Foundation Grants committee recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, the following awards:

- American Legion Post #130 - Arnold - \$3,000: To help with the Arnold area Veterans Memorial.
- Anselmo-Merna Public Schools Music Department - \$3,000: To aid in purchasing a timpani drum for the music department.
- Ansley Village Teacher Organization - \$5,000: To help with the community food pantry and weekend backpack program.
- Broken Bow Backpack Program - \$5,000: To provide vouchers to the local grocery store for weekend meals.
- Broken Bow Career and Technical Education - \$2,000: To bring a speaker to Broken Bow Public Schools.
- Broken Bow Elks Lodge #1688 - \$700: To purchase winter wear for their clothing drive.
- Broken Bow Library Foundation - \$5,000: To aid with installing the Community Story Walk at Melham Park.
- The Comstock Den, Inc. - \$2,500: To assist with replacing the back door to the local senior center.
- Custer County Economic Development - \$6,000:

- To help relocate and preserve the Moroney One Room Schoolhouse.
- Mid-Plains Community College - \$1,000: To bring in the a health care simulation for emergency medical training in Custer County.
- Milburn Community & Alumni - \$3,000: To aid with purchasing and installing a historical marker in Milburn, Neb.
- North Park Inclusive Playground - \$20,000: To contribute to purchasing inclusive playground equipment and new surfacing.
- Oconto Volunteer Fire & Rescue - \$4,000: To purchase 4-Gas Monitor & Carbon Monoxide Monitor.
- Village of Callaway - \$8,874: To purchase 3 picnic tables, and 3 ADA-compliant picnic tables.
- The next grant application period ends April 30, 2025. Applications may be accessed online at www.custercountyfoundation.org. When submitting applications, it is important to complete all the requested information and submit a complete application. Incomplete applications will not be funded. Please contact the Custer County Foundation with any questions when filling out the grant application.
- The mission of the Custer County Foundation is to seek out, receive, and administer funds to meet the present and future needs of the residents of Custer County. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Call the Foundation at 308-872-2232 for more information.



A Giving Community



Tory and Carma Edwards help their daughter Cali pack a shoebox at the Operation Christmas Child packing party, November 20, at the school. The gymnasium was filled with more parents, students and adult volunteers working to achieve the goal of filling 1,200 shoeboxes with gifts for children around the world. - Jessica Tickle photo

By Melody Jennings, OCC Coordinator

Another successful Community Packing Party on November 20 concluded a year’s worth of preparations when students and adults packed 1,200 boxes hitting this year’s goal. There was one little hiccup: when the numbers were tallied we were five boxes short of the mark. The moms who were there cleaning up jumped right back in, Pastor Lee got five more boxes and the ladies filled them so that we could reach the goal. The “let’s get ‘er done” attitude that prevails in this area comes through in many ways as we work all year towards the party. From the youngest vol-

unteer, 5-year-old Ryan from Colorado, to the oldest volunteers, Max and Joan Smith, many people rolled up their sleeves and helped in various ways. The driving force behind this year’s success was Marla Forrester Fattig of Brady who has great passion for this project. She hosted a workshop on March 9 to teach local seamstresses how to sew school bags from a pattern she designed. We had two sewing days in March with 18 people participating. Several caught “the bug” for making bags and continued to sew both at home and at the church throughout the year. Seamstresses were from Colorado, Oregon, Callaway, Arnold, Brady, and

North Platte, and donated over 400 schoolbags. We had other “work parties” where all ages joined together to make fishing kits, sew clothes, bags, and bunnies, make jewelry and jewelry kits, scribble pads, fill hair accessories bags, and braid jump ropes from tee shirts, and package clothes. We had 10 different work parties, with many other days of just plain work unwrapping, packing, counting, etc., to get all the supplies ready. The only way to be ready for this event is to shop sales and prepare all year long. I can count 34 people who came to help with the different projects, and I am so grateful for all the help. Support for our local

party came from Colorado, Oregon, Arizona, Missouri, Kansas, Florida, and Wyoming in the form of cash donations or supplies, and volunteer help. Carol Ahnstedt of Loveland, Colorado, provides the bulk of our stuffed animals each year and David Sheets brings them to Arnold when he comes for Alumni each May. That is a huge gift and help for our party. Mrs. Debby Moninger rallied the Jr. High National Honor Society students to help move all the donations from the Baptist Church to the school, along with the adults, who drove pickups and trailers, carried

See PACKING PARTY Continued on page 2

