

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Rescuing Amigo

Residents band together to save stray dog



Amigo, the lost dog, takes a romp in Sal Hilderbrant's Pawsome Hotel after receiving word that he had been rescued. - Courtesy photos

By Janet Larreau

A seemingly lost dog captured the attention of the small town of Arnold in early November, when it made an appearance in residential yards in the north part of town. At first, neighbors didn't know what to make of the dog that was just hanging

around, and put it out on social media to hopefully find a local owner. No one stepped forward. The Village of Arnold was notified, shared the post, and the almost-two-year-old male black brindle Lab mix was taken to Sal Hilderbrant's Pawsome Hotel for boarding until someone stepped forward to adopt him or a place

to re-locate him could be found. The Village announced that the dog was available to be re-homed effective November 19, with the clock ticking on a time limit of the Village paying the boarding fees.

Amigo, as he is now known, only had a few days before a fateful decision had to be made. Village Clerk Patty Lamberty began calling local shelters, but they were all at capacity. Middle-school friends, Claire Kulp and Kora Dailey, on behalf of the Jr. Honor Society, sent a picture and article to the Arnold Sentinel, pleading with residents to "Save this dog."

Just in the nick of time, Claire Kulp's grandmother, Mary Jo Smith, saw the Facebook post. A resident of Lincoln, Smith is involved with Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue, also located in Lincoln.

For some unexplained reason, Smith saw the post of the found dog on the Facebook page of the Village of Arnold, and replied that perhaps the rescue she worked with could help. She immediately reached out to the director to see if it would be a dog they could help. At about the same time, Claire reached out to her, fearing for the dog's well-being.

"Being an animal advocate like me, (Claire) was quite concerned," said Smith. "The dog was not micro-chipped, which is so important in helping locate the owners. Amigo clearly knew some commands, loved kids, and had a collar. He was someone's pup and was sadly dumped or lost. We have seven foster fails in our house, which means we have opted to adopt seven of the animals ourselves. When you are compassionate like that, your heart is on your sleeve and you absolutely melt at the thought of a lost or homeless animal. Add the heartbreak of a child trying to help an animal, you sort of just jump into action to help."

Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue is a foster-based rescue group, meaning the fosters care for the rescued animals in their own home. There is not a brick and mortar facility. As the rescue doesn't have enough fosters as it is, Smith was afraid that they would not be able to help. However, within a couple of days, Kerri, the director, was able to find a wonderful family willing to foster, and the ball started rolling.



Village Clerk Patty Lamberty and Lincoln resident Mary Jo Smith worked together on all of the details of placing Amigo at Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue in Lincoln.

Before picking up the animal, Smith had to make sure he was vaccinated. "Parvo is so deadly among dogs, and we are extremely cautious with transports until those shots are given. The costs of vetting are astronomical and as a nonprofit, fundraising is imperative to be able to give the required cares and any necessary treatments," said Smith.

On Tuesday, November 26, Smith drove to Arnold from Lincoln. She made a stop to see family, saw Patty at the Village and paid what the rescue owed Hilderbrant and the Gothenburg vet, and picked Amigo up from Sal's. She then took Amigo to the school to say goodbye to Claire, her sister Kate, Kora, and Avery Corbin.

Behind the scenes, Smith worked with Patty Lamberty at the Village office. "Patty was the kindest,

greatest person to work with in trying to figure out vetting, transport, fees, etc. She is clearly an incredibly valuable asset to the community as she worked tirelessly to help Amigo."

Smith describes Sal Hilderbrant at Pawesome Hotel as an absolute gem in getting Amigo the help he needed, saying, "Sal boarded him, took him to the vet, let the girls come and play with him, and worked on his manners. She is one busy lady, but put time and effort into helping Amigo and Dolly's Legacy to get the vetting and boarding he needed until we could get it to all come together. Sal even reached out to check on him after his arrival to the rescue, and I couldn't be more grateful for all that she did."

Another stand-out was

See Rescuing Amigo
Page 2



Saying goodbye to Amigo before his trip to a foster home in Lincoln were: (from left) Kaitlyn Kulp, Avery Corbin, Claire Kulp and Kora Dailey.



Up on Riverview Apartment's rooftop are Kora Dailey placing clips on the gutters, Addison Dairymple unrolling a string of lights, and Tysen Schacher attaching the lights.



At Koubek Gardens, Callan Witthuhn pounds one of the many posts into the ground. Avery Corbin and Jaxsen Schacher then secured Christmas trees to the T-Posts.



Delanie Weinman and Rae Hagler fluff and adjust the ornaments on the tree that was placed in Riverview's social room.

Junior Honor Society Members Deck the Halls

Students learn how to launch a project

On Tuesday, November 26, Jr. Honor Society 9 and some of the Jr. High Honor Society 7/8 members were out working for their community. The project of decorating for the holidays at both Koubek Gardens and Riverview Apartments, and having a social hour with the residents, was the result of attending a recent STEMfest Leadership Workshop.

"The ESU activities that day focused on teaching the LAUNCH cycle to create a product that meets a need; however, they also emphasized that the process could be effective for awareness of an issue, service projects, and community needs," said National Honor Society Sponsor Debby Moninger. "It was a lot like the process that Arnold's Community Foundation and AEDC organized a few years ago."

The students met with AEDC Director Cheryl Carson on November 15 to make sure they understood the LAUNCH cycle and how it can work locally. From that meeting, they determined the three service projects that must be completed by the end of the school year. The students will now move on to projects 2 and 3 which will be covered by the *Sentinel* in upcoming issues.



Riley Leetch and Lindsay Christensen tested and replaced burnt out lights on the trees at Koubek Gardens. - Debbie Connolly photos