

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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AVFD: “A Record Year”

Volunteers look
back on 2024

By AVFD Member
Tammy Weinman

The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department has had a record number of calls this year with 101 ambulance calls to date and 36 fire calls. This equals to around 1300 hours spent on emergency calls for our responders this year. Members have also put in over 1500 hours in training for 2024.

Officers for the fire department are Andrew Tickle Fire Chief, Gregg Tickle Assistant Fire Chief, Robbi Smith Assistant Fire Chief and President, Cam Meyer Vice President, April Tickle Secretary/Treasurer, Tammy Weinman Rescue Captain and Heather Hagler Assistant Rescue Captain.

January started out the year with cold temperatures and blizzard like conditions. This made the road between Arnold and Merna impassable and kept the department busy with accidents and rescue calls in that area. On January 20, Custer County held it's first Mini EMS Conference in Broken Bow with Andrew Tickle, Tammy Weinman, Heather Hagler, Cassidy DeLosh, and Jane Lashley attending.

The Les Lukert Conference was in February with Andrew Tickle, B.J. Jameson, Cassidy DeLosh,

Dalton Swopes and Grady Lashley attending. February was dry with a lot of Red Flag Warnings. This contributed to the Betty Way Fire that started by North Platte and ended southeast of Arnold. The fire burned 71,022 acres and kept area fire departments busy for several days. That same day there was a large fire by Stapleton that Arnold also got called out to help with.

In March, Andrew Tickle, Tanner Pehrson, Tammy Weinman, Rudy Vickers, Jane Lashley, Cassidy DeLosh, and Jackie Meyer attended EMS Conference in Kearney.

The fire department held their annual awards night in March. Years of service awards were given to Jackie Meyer 5 years, Darren Weinman 25 years, Rudy Vickers 20 years, Robbi Smith 45 years and Dell Cerny 50 years.

A special award was given to several department members at the awards banquet. Cam Meyer, Cassidy DeLosh, Andrew Tickle, Dalton Swopes, Brock Dailey, Tammy Weinman, Amanda Wehnes and BJ Jameson received a Life Saving Effort Award.

Country Partners hosted a facility safety training with fire department members and served a meal for those in attendance.

First Interstate Bank do-



Arnold Volunteer Fire Department members work through a scenario at a tabletop exercise during a 2024 training. The department as a whole put in over 1,500 hours in training during the year. - Courtesy photos

minated \$2500 to the fire department.

The Arnold football practice field was the site for an LZ training with Lifenet in April. We also fought another big fire in April. Andrew Tickle, Cassidy DeLosh and Tammy Weinman became took the NIMS 400 two-day class in Merna on April 6 and 7.

Training in May consisted of training on the tanker, SCBA, and hoses. The department celebrated EMS week in May with “Honoring our Past” and Forging Our Future as the theme. Several attended Fire School in May. Those attending were April Tickle, Andrew Tickle, Cassidy DeLosh, Jane Lashley, B.J. Jameson.

In June, an extrication training was held in preparation for SORC.

With summer bringing storms, it was fitting for the fire department to sponsor the movie Twisted at the Rialto Theater in July. The department

spent many hours storm spotting during the summer storms. The EMT's also trained with the lifeguards at the pool. Cassidy DeLosh attended the Health Fair in Callaway and represented the department with a booth and had handouts for those attending.

August is always a busy month for the department with SORC being held in Arnold. At the SORC BBQ, the department raffled off two guns and auctioned off one gun for a fundraiser.

During the summer, Cassidy DeLosh and Tammy Weinman attended and completed the Hazmat Operations class held in Broken Bow. The class was taught by the State Fire Marshalls Office. They passed a skills test and written test and received their certification.

Emergency Vehicle Operations Class and HIPAA training took place in Sep-



Volunteers spot a dangerous cloud during storm season - just one of the ways they protect and serve their community.

tember, which are needed to maintain our ambulance license.

Fall Festival was also held in September. The fire department attended the parade with all of it's emergency vehicles in the parade line up.

Roth ID tags were handed out to anyone in the community that wanted them for their children's car seats during the month of October. There was another fire this month.

Also, Fire Prevention programs are held at Arnold Public School in October. This year's theme was “Learn the Sounds of Fire.” Sparky the fire dog

was in attendance for the fire prevention program. The department also attended the Trunk or Treat downtown for Halloween and handed out goodies to the attendees.

Tyler Kurtz, storm chaser, interviewed Andrew Tickle, April Tickle and Tammy Weinman for his project that is looking at the lack of volunteers in fire and EMS in the state. This was a topic that was being looked at after several fires across the state of Nebraska. At this time, the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department is in need of

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Celebrating 100 Years

January 14, 2025, will mark 100 years since the final move was made into Finch Memorial Library and it began serving area residents. In her report this week, current director Marcy Lucas said that at that time, the building was made a public institution administered by a library board and supported by a tax levy. The building was added to the National Register of Historical Places on July 1, 2015, and under the current board, has undergone renovations in the past several years.

The year 1925 was a banner year for Arnold, as the town also celebrated the construction of a new school. According to *One Hundred Years on the South Loup* by Norene Hall Mills, as '25 began, the town boasted four grocery stores, two hardware and furniture stores, three drug stores, one implement store, four cafes, six cream stations, two lumber yards, three garages, two meat markets, two barber shops, one style shop, a flour mill, two battery stations, two elevators, two banks, a hospital, five churches, a library, and for a part of the year, two theatres.

(Inset) The large bronze memorial tablet on the library's east wall was designed by librarian Laura Peterson, and is a tribute to the pioneer life of Ephraim and Sarah Finch. It was unveiled on April 30, 1925, before an audience that filled the building's main floor. - Jessica Tickle photos



Rotary Receives Grant to Help Those In Need

Fourteen customers in the Village of Arnold received some financial help with their January utility bill, thanks to a grant from the Roy and Gloria Dinsdale Foundation through the Arnold Rotary Club.

The Foundation first approached Aaron Coleman at Pinnacle Bank, who nominated Rotary. A 5013c organization was needed to apply, and the Sandhills Out Reach Charity provided that avenue.

Local Rotary president Buzz Lohmiller said the organization was initially expecting a \$2,000.00 grant, but the Foundation recommended \$4,000.00 to directly support individuals and families with financial need. The 14 individuals and families were identified by the Village of Arnold office, and a \$286.00 credit was applied to each of their utility bills.

The Village mailed out a letter to the recipients on December 27. In part, the letter said, “Sid Dinsdale, Chris Dinsdale, and Jane Dinsdale Rogers, the children of Roy and Gloria Dinsdale, are committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals and families facing hardship. This continues a tradition, started decades ago, by their parents through the Foundation. It is their honor to support you during a difficult time. They sincerely hope this grant helps provide financial relief and an opportunity for you to embrace meaningful holiday traditions.”

The letter, signed by Aaron Coleman, Buzz Lohmiller, and Patricia Lamberty, also noted that only the Village office knows the recipients of these grant funds and will keep this information confidential.