

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Opossum and Costco Cake Go Viral



The large Doggett family (pictured at Kim (Milne) Doggett's in-laws) and their frequent get-togethers for meals often results in running out of space. They place the overabundance of food out on Kim and Dan's deck in the winter months to keep it cool. Their crazy story of a cat-like thief and a half-eaten cake on the deck went viral on February 11. Pictured are: (back, l-r) Ayda, Michael, Mia, and Dylan Brune (Dylan's family), Alyssa, Everett, Nathan, and Harlow Doggett, (Nathan's family), Vivian, Makayla, Evander, Scott, and Calvin Doggett (Scott's son); front row: Kim, Hayden and Egor Doggett (sons), Dan (husband) and Lauren Widing (Hayden's girlfriend). - Courtesy photo



The very full, sickly opossum with the half-eaten Costco chocolate cake.

By Janet Larreau

What do you do when you find a marsupial and a mostly gone cake on your deck in a fast growing urban area? Well, former Arnold resident Kimberly “Kim” Doggett couldn’t just shoo it away; it wouldn’t budge off the deck furniture. Kim, who spent time on and off the farm throughout childhood, and is now a city girl, turned to the only resource she knew.

Kim, who is a 1987 A.H.S. grad and a real estate agent in the Gretna area, said the Virginia opossum was discovered on the family’s deck furniture at

9:10 p.m. on February 9. She had ran out of space to store a Costco chocolate mousse cake, so she put it out on the deck – something they commonly do in the winter with lots of family around. When her son went to put some homemade peanut butter balls outside to set up, he discovered the stuffed opossum and the half-eaten cake. They tried to move the opossum along, but it didn’t look right. Knowing that chocolate is poisonous to dogs, the family Googled chocolate and opossums. Their next move was to call the Nebraska Humane Society.

“The animal control officer must have come out

of Omaha; he was there in 40 minutes, which was pretty fast. He was really good. He said (opossums) are like cats, and he had never been bitten. He picked her up and put her in a little pet carrier,” she said.

The wildlife rescue organization Nebraska Wildlife Rehab then took charge. The opossum received activated charcoal and fluids on intake and got a full health check-up, including X-rays and bloodwork. Notes said the opossum was panting, but mobile and alert. The opossum got lucky when the treating doctors at the Baldwin Wildlife Center & Hubbard Family Wildlife

Hospital found she had unrelated lead toxicity – a common issue in wildlife.

Story Goes Viral

Just as surprising as finding the opossum was what happened after Nebraska Wildlife Rehab posted about the half eaten cake on their Facebook page. The February 11 post went viral. By February 12, the rehab’s post had 10.7K views, 1.1K comments, and 2.5K shares. *The Omaha World Herald* did a story, the *Grand Island Independent* picked it up, and then Kim found herself being contacted through Messenger by *The Washington Post*, with 2.5 million digital subscribers, and *Forbes*,

which has over 1 million digital subscribers. The Omaha Costco fan page had plenty of fun comments when the story was posted there, with someone asking who made the cake.

“It’s insane. It’s quite hilarious,” said Kim. “People want something to laugh about, because everything’s so darned serious now.”

She’ll Be Back

After several weeks of treatment and supportive care to chelate the lead from the opossums body, Kim said she is looking forward to seeing her around the neighborhood. Through the encounter, the family learned the

benefits the opossum – North America’s only native marsupial - has for an area like theirs, like eating ticks and bugs.

But the family will take precautions when putting food out on the deck from here on out.

“I’ve lived here almost nine years and have never seen an opossum on our deck or any animal,” she said. “Our deck is pretty high, so we didn’t think anything would come up. (The opossum) really had to work at it to get up here. The poor thing was lucky it was my deck. “

Village Makes Solid Plan for Code Enforcement

At their regular board meeting held on February 10, Arnold Village Board members passed Ordinance No. 487, creating a code enforcement officer according to Nebraska statutes. The ordinance states that the code enforcement officer will issue citations for village code enforcement violations for non-moving traffic violations and other offenses as defined in the

Arnold Nebraska Basic Code.

Jason Jenkins asked if the code enforcement officer is going to look for violations, or is it based on complaints? Clerk Patricia Lamberty said that there does not need to be a written complaint to enforce ordinances. Board member Glen Bowers said that it was previously discussed that the village employees will not ac-

tively look for violations, but if they see a violation when they are out, then it would be addressed.

Chairman Zach Hagler appointed Tory Edwards, Eric Holmberg and himself as the code enforcement officers. The appointments were approved by the board.

Nuisance Abatement

Patricia Lamberty said that she contacted West Central Nebraska Devel-

opment District regarding nuisance abatement. WCNDD does have some nuisance abatement clients outside of their region. However, the application cycle for the 2025 nuisance abatement season has closed. The application cycle for the 2026 season is in October.

At this time, the plan for nuisance abatement is as follows:

1. Tory Edwards, Zach

Hagler, and Eric Holmberg (code enforcement officers) and another board member will compile a list of properties that are in violation of 4-302 (nuisances) and 6-304 (offenses) of the Arnold Municipal Code.

2. At least one employee and one board member will go and talk with the property owner to encourage them to clean up their property.

3. Owners will have until April 15 to voluntarily clean up their property.
4. After April 15, upon determination by the Board of Health that said owner or occupant has failed to keep such real estate free of public nuisances, a notice to abate and remove the nuisance shall be given to said owner or occupant.

Arnold Joins Conference Schools for MNAC Band Clinic



Thirteen Arnold students participated in the MANC Band Clinic on February 10, spending the day working with other students from our conference schools. The guest clinician was Mr. Brett Bradley, who retired from his long-time position as director of bands at North Platte High School three years ago, and spends his time judging area district music contests and being a guest clinician in the area. Arnold music instructor Tonya Welch said he was an absolute joy to work with.

“We spent the better part of our semester thus far preparing the music for this event, and it ended up being a successful day with fun and challenging music,” said Mrs. Welch. “We plan to possibly use two of the MNAC pieces at our own spring concert later this season.”

Band members pictured who attended the clinic were: (back row, l-r): Jaden Baker, Paxton Bierman, Josie Lehmkuhler, Delanie Weinman, Adalei Tullis, Luke Tullis, Summer Morash; (front row, l-r) Walter Bierman, Piper Strasburg, Madelyn Logsdon, Jade Bierman, Ivy Tullis, Asa Starr. - Courtesy photo

Tree Board, Village List Priorities for Arnold Rec Area

Village Board members went over several agenda items at their regular meeting held on February 10.

The Arnold Tree Board, with members Peg Scott, Kenneth Goodenow, and Mary Becker, met with board members Glen Bowers and Donnell DeLosh in January to talk about their vision for the Arnold Recreation Area. After considerable discussion, they all agreed on four priorities that will help guide the tree board on writing grants for trees and where to plant the trees. The priorities are:

- Reestablish the tree canopy on both sides of the road surrounding the lake.

- Establish a walking/bike trail around the perimeter of the ARA property.
- Establish a green irrigated area around the bathhouse.
- Work with Rotary to install a disc golf course.

Becker said that the Nebraska Forest Service IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) grant for 2025 changed from 2024. Last year, it was a one-year plan for trees. This has changed to a three-year proposal. The grant is due March 31. At the November 11, 2024, meeting, the board authorized the tree board to apply for the IRA grant. It will include trees for the ARA, public locations in town, and residential homes.