

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 108, NUMBER 38

Arnold Township Board Establishes Cemetery Board

In a forward-thinking move aimed at enhancing the upkeep and management of the Arnold Cemetery, the Arnold Township Board announced a new dedicated Arnold Cemetery Board.

Appointed at the Township's February 11 meeting, the Arnold Cemetery Board members are: Becky Dailey, Dena Mills, Kristi Dvorak, David Leach, and Holly Remund. Each one of the members brings a unique set of skills and drive to the board.

Becky Dailey is eager to contribute her vision for how to beautify and provide a long-lasting tribute through constant attention to all the details that make our cemetery a loving home for those we loved. “It takes just a few people to organize and get the ball rolling. I like being part of starting things and following through to completion to see the end result.”

Dena Mills brings her “know-how” in maintenance and lawn care

through her experience as a hardware store owner and former owner of a lawn care service. As a lifelong member of the community, she has a long line of family members in the Arnold Cemetery and a deep knowledge of the community.

Kristi Dvorak, the creator of the Arnold Cemetery website, has a passion for honoring the memory of the community's loved ones by maintaining a dedicated online presence that is locally managed. “These are our people, and I want to not only provide an online memorial for our lost loved ones but also preserve their final resting places in a manner that reflects our community's love for its people.”

David Leach has invested countless hours in cataloging graves and photographing headstones, providing a valuable resource for both historical records and community interest. David and Kristi often collaborate together, along with assistance



Newly-established Arnold Cemetery Board members are: (from left) Dena Mills, president; Holly Remund, vice-president; Kristi Dvorak, secretary; Becky Dailey, treasurer; and David Leach, historian/records. - Courtesy photo

from Tiff Varney, to create and maintain digital records. David's passion for recording historical facts for the area has been valuable to not only the cemetery, but also the Arnold Area Historical Society.

Holly Remund brings to the board her exceptional ability for getting ideas off the ground. “Starting up new organizations, businesses, and projects is really my thing. In another life, I made a living helping others with this exact thing.” Since returning to Arnold in 2011, Holly has lit a fire under many local projects, including the formation of

the Arnold Community Foundation Fund.

The Cemetery Board will mirror the functionality and reporting structure of the Arnold Library Board, ensuring accountable and transparent financial reporting to the Township. It will be responsible for the Arnold Cemetery and the Powell Canyon Cemetery.

Their ultimate goal is to maintain the cemeteries with constant care and dedication, ensuring they remain a place of beauty and respect for generations to come.

While the Township Board has had responsibility for care and main-

tenance of the cemetery property, Tiff Varney and his predecessors at the local funeral home have maintained careful records of plot ownership and burial records as part of their business responsibility. Since Tiff sold the business, he has voluntarily maintained the records, sold plots, and located graves for new burials and headstone placement. The Cemetery Board will work with Tiff to formulate a plan for the future of these responsibilities. The board also plans to focus on funding, increase public awareness of issues, and help formalize policies.

“Tiff's involvement in the Arnold Cemetery is invaluable. He has decades of knowledge about the Arnold Cemetery, and we want to work closely with him to learn from his years of experience, support him in the best way we can going forward, and hopefully make his role a little easier as well,” said Leach.

The newly formed board has already been researching several new projects. Community members are encouraged to share their ideas with the board and participate in the efforts to care for the cemetery and honor those who rest there.

A Rare Opportunity

With poise and grace, Danah Baldwin made her school proud on February 20, as she performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” in front of the large crowd at the CHI Health Center in Omaha. Her performance kicked off the first session of the Nebraska Boys State Wrestling Tournament at Omaha.

“Performing in the first session was special since our own South Loup state qualifying wrestlers were competing,” said Arnold music instructor Tonya Welch.

Each year the Nebraska Schools Activities Association accepts auditions for the national anthem performances at the state level events, with auditions due by October 1. This year 260 auditions were submitted

with only 59 soloists and small groups being selected. The A.H.S. senior was among them.

Baldwin, Mrs. Welch, and four additional guests were given free entry and VIP seating, which they gave to the Arnold administrators and parents of the South Loup boys so they could sit closer to the mats for their matches.

“It's truly an honor to be selected to perform the national anthem at state-level events, and many people may not fully understand just how significant that opportunity is,” said Mrs. Welch. “Being chosen to represent a school and music program before a large, statewide audience is a privilege in itself. Add to that, the experience of performing in incredible

venues where professional musicians and elite athletes have stood, it becomes an unforgettable experience.”

Mrs. Welch has had the privilege of taking students to perform the anthem at state dive at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, state soccer at Morrison Stadium in Omaha, state cross country in Kearney, state football at Memorial Stadium, state wrestling duals in Kearney, and state track at Burke Stadium in Omaha – milestones that the performers will always remember.

“We will continue to submit our Arnold singers' auditions so more of them can hopefully get the opportunity to experience this incredible honor in the future,” she said.

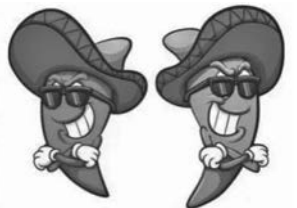
Chili Cook-Off Is Saturday

As of February 24, seven teams had signed up for the 36th annual Chamber-sponsored Chili Cook-Off. The teams will be setting up this Saturday, March 1, at the community center, cooking up their recipes, preparing for judging and will be welcoming the crowd.

Public taste testing of the chili and serving of potato and chicken noodle soup will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. St. Agnes Church will be selling pies for dessert.

During the evening, everyone can also enjoy playing dice, cards, and board games. Prizes in four categories will be awarded at 7:00 p.m.

The event is sponsored by Arnold Chamber, with Taylour Snyder and Debbie Connelly in charge.



Mason Brings Home Silver Medal for Bobcats



Dawson Mason goes up against a Wilcox-Hildreth wrestler at the Nebraska State Wrestling Meet, February 21, in the CHI Health Center in Omaha. Mason's 4-1 win took him into the finals on Saturday - a first for the South Loup Bobcats. - Photo by Mellissa Wells

By Karla Rockwell

It was state tournament time for our two senior wrestlers, C.J. Quandt and Dawson Mason, who both made a return trip to the meet. For our seniors, their final wrestling careers will come to an end. What a ride these boys have given to wrestling

fans.

Each wrestler starts with a 16-man bracket at state, shooting for a place on the 6-man podium. Each district sends their four top wrestlers to compete. Wrestlers are seeded according to their placement at districts. District 1, our district, in Quandt and Mason's weight class,

proved to be a very tough district. Both District 1 weight classes put three on the podium at the end of the tournament.

Quandt started his day on Thursday against a district champion from Southern. Quandt took him to the 3rd period,

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A.H.S. senior Danah Baldwin performs the national anthem at the Nebraska State Wrestling Meet. - Courtesy photo