

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Residents Gain Knowledge at NFS Tree Care Workshop

Four Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) rangers were in town on March 13, providing information and hands-on experience on the fundamentals of tree care and how to spot the common ash borer to over a dozen interested participants.

Arnold recently revived their tree board and worked hard to reinstate their Tree City USA status. The town applied for, received and completed the NFS Inflation Reduction Act grant – both of which are direct links to the Nebraska Forest Service – a true service agency housed within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with many field staff spread across the state.

“(Arnold) really got the ball rolling, and my team was interested in working with their newfound momentum in all the ways we have to offer; one of which is outreach and education opportunities,” said Chrissy Land, Western Community Forester for NFS, who along with Lauren Keefe, Western Forest Health Specialist, were speakers for the day. “We were looking for hosts to do our annual spring workshops and asked if Arnold would be interested. We were excited that they said yes.”

Arnold Tree Board member Mary Becker said it was suggested that they include a plan for continued education when a grant was submitted for free trees. Arnold Rotary agreed to sponsor the spring 2025 workshop, which Becker described as “outstanding.”

Land said each spring, the foresters try to do at least three to five workshops in western Nebraska focused on properly pruning trees and targeting areas closest to the most recently confirmed finds of the invasive insect Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

“We’re hoping to build an army of tree profes-



Utility employees Tory Edwards and Eric Holmberg get a lesson in bark scraping during a tree care workshop held at the community center on March 13. The pruning and insect identification skills they learned during the 3 1/2 hour Nebraska Forest Service workshop will be used to care for trees in Arnold parks.



Nebraska forester Lauren Keefe reacts, as resident Kay Lohmiller uncovers an Emerald Ash Borer and sees first-hand the damage the insect does to trees. The recently cut, infected ash trees were transported in sealed containers from the Eastern part of the state to be used at the Arnold workshop.

sionals with the proper skills to identify EAB, so they can help us track the movements of the insect,” she said. “We invite homeowners, arborists, groundskeepers, parks, streets, utility departments of nearby communities and anyone

working with trees to attend this training. While they are pruning and caring for community trees, we want everyone to utilize best practices to keep our community trees healthy. Specifically, no topping trees, and how it can create weakly

attached branches and invite rot into the center of the branches, increasing their likelihood of failing in the next storm. Also, most of the EAB confirmations in the state have been correlated with annual tree pruning care. So it’s beneficial to have the

See Tree Care Workshop, page 2.

Make-A-Wish Nebraska Grants Elias’ Wish to Go to Walt Disney World Resort



At his Make-A-Wish reveal party, five-year-old Elias Schweitzer, son of Rick and Paige Schweitzer, was excited to learn that he would be receiving his wish to travel to Walt Disney World Resort to specifically meet Mr. Incredible. - Courtesy photo

Hope is essential for wish kids and their families. For many wish kids, hospital stays, doctor’s visits and treatments have become their “new normal.” They experience extreme emotional challenges every day, but a spark of hope can change everything. That hope can be found in a wish. Wishes like Elias’.

Elias Schweitzer, who is 5 years old, is like a lot of 5-year-olds. He loves to play outside, swing, ride his scooter, play with Legos®, swim, fish and play soccer. However, unlike most 5-year-olds, Elias is battling Retinoblastoma, a type of eye cancer.

Once Elias learned he would be receiving a wish, he decided he wanted to go to Walt Disney World® Resort, specifically to meet Mr. Incredible from “The Incredibles” movie. Elias LOVES “The Incredibles!”

Elias and his family will spend 7 days exploring Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando, FL, as well as other parks and attractions in the area. It will be an amazing time for Elias and his family to spend together after everything he’s gone through. All wish expenses will be covered.

Make-A-Wish learns about wish kids through a referral process. Anyone can refer a wish child by visiting www.wish.org/refer-a-child. Elias was referred to Make-A-Wish by his social worker and medical team at Children’s Colorado. At Make-A-Wish, we grant the wishes of all eligible children who have reached the age of 2 ½ but are younger than 18 at the time of referral. Wish kids are not necessarily

terminal but have been diagnosed by a medical professional with a progressive, degenerative, or malignant condition that puts their life in jeopardy. Once the child’s diagnosis is approved by the child’s physician, the family receives information to begin the wish process. Once approved, our volunteer Wish Granters meet with the wish child to discover their wish. Then, once a child’s one true wish is discovered, the wish team begins the planning process, working to bring the wish to life.

50 Years of Membership



Last week, American Legion Post 130 Commander John Phillips (left) presented Tom Dennis a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Dennis served in the Army’s 82nd Airborne from January 1973 to 1976. “I ended up in the army because I had a lucky number 32. My dad, Bernard, signed me up for Legion; that’s why I’m at 50 years,” he said.

Dennis came home, farmed, became a fireman and EMT for the Arnold Fire Department, and ended up retiring from the railroad. He’s still on the fire department and drives a school bus.

- Courtesy photo



Annual Feed Draws 300

With some 300 people turning out for their annual pancake feed on March 20, Arnold Rotarians welcomed help from the North Platte Kiwanis Club. All ages - including soccer kids and their parents - lined up in the community center to enjoy a pancake with all the toppings. “We anticipated all of the soccer kids coming and planned for it,” said current Rotary President Buzz Lohmiller. Free-will donations received that night will go to Rotary’s many service projects. - Courtesy photo