

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Teamwork Gets the Job Done

Over 100 volunteers tackle community clean-up day list

The town received its annual spring cleaning on Monday, with volunteers from Rotary, Chamber, the school, American Legion, and Village personnel cleaning up some 30 areas on the “to do” list. Eleven public areas, including the Arnold Recreation Area check-in station, the ARA, Koubek Gardens, community center, cemetery, and the football field, received attention. There, workers applied stain and sealer, washed exteriors, dug out grasses, trimmed bushes,

laid mulch, and picked up branches. Trash was picked up where it collects in other locations, including Devil’s Den Look-Out. Eighteen residents called in to receive help with cleaning out gutters, raking yards, trimming bushes, and hauling away waste. Legion had calls from several residents to pick up metals, including lawn mowers, motor transmissions, and grills. A meal provided by Legion and organized by Chamber was served to all

of the volunteers. Leading up to clean-up day, village employees have been picking up household items and disposing of them at the roll-off at the street shop. The roll-off will be available to residents free of charge through May 15. Hazardous waste is also accepted on a pallet by the dumpster at the street shop. To find out a list of items that are and are not accepted, call the village office at 308-848-2228.



Arnold sophomores Wacey Schultz, Elijah Cool, and Malachi Neth power through the extensive root system of pampas grass at Koubek Gardens on Monday morning, April 28, during community clean-up day. With all three bearing down on one shovel, the boys dramatized the job’s difficulty for the camera. - Debbie Connelly photo

Sentinel Receives Awards In Better Newspaper Contest

First, second, and third place winners were announced Saturday night at Kearney in the Nebraska Newspaper Association’s (NPA) Better Newspaper Contest. The *Arnold Sentinel* received 2nd place in the Breaking News category with a story written by Janet Larreau titled “Hundreds of Volunteers Stop Betty’s Way Fire.” The *Sentinel* also received a 1st place award in the Single Feature Story category with another story written by Larreau, titled “Bringing the ‘Twang’ Back,” featuring B.J. Jameson’s rise in the Country music industry. The judge commented that it was a fun read that gets you swept up in the trajectory. The *Sentinel* was judged in Division B, based on circulation. There were 1,983 separate entries in several categories, including writing, photography, advertising, design, and creativity, judged by members of the North Carolina Press Association.



Arnold third graders watch and learn at the city park, as Nebraska forester Chrissy Land directs them on how to lay a bamboo stick over the root ball of a tree to measure the exact height it should be planted. - Debbie Connelly photo

Celebrating Arbor Day

Arnold third graders learned all about trees and their importance to our environment at an Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 25. Organized by the Arnold Tree Board and featuring a visit from Western Community Forester Chrissy Land, the day started out with lunch and a scavenger hunt in the great outdoors at the Arnold Recreation Area. The group then moved on to the city park, where the kids received a hands-on lesson on the correct way to plant a tree - in this case a Greenstone Elm that will have rich yellow leaves in the fall. Everyone gathered around, as the elm was planted in a pre-dug hole just east of the bathrooms. Land showed the kids how to place the tree and loosen up the root ball. She then laid a bamboo stick across the hole to measure if the root ball was just the right height in the soil, dirt and mulch was poured on, and the lesson continued on the correct way to brace the tree - sling it so it can move, don’t “cast” it! Every kid got to dump a bucket of water on the new tree. As they stood back to admire their work, they were overheard saying it was their tree now and vowed to protect it. Celebrated the last Friday of April in the U.S., Arbor Day is a civic holiday in Nebraska, set aside to encourage tree planting and community engagement in environmental stewardship.

Powerful Symbols Raised



Friday morning, April 25, was an exciting moment in time for Legion and V.F.W. members and the community, as nine flags were raised at the Veterans Memorial site. The powerful and moving symbols, honoring the United States, the U.S. Army, National Guard, Coast Guard, MIA, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Space Force, are visible from all directions as people drive into town. Mike Harvey, who has led the Veterans Memorial project, said some of the monuments might be ready and placed by the end of May. - Debbie Connelly photo