

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Starting a New Chapter

Thirteen receive degrees at A.H.S. Commencement

Arnold seniors received their high school diplomas at the 112th Annual A.H.S. Commencement held on Saturday, May 10. Wearing caps and gowns in their class colors of royal blue and silver with a black accent, the 13 seniors entered the gym during the processional and were led on stage by junior attendants Summer Morash and Haydn Stretesky.

Superintendent Joel Morgan welcomed all of those in attendance.

Following the welcome, Salutatorian Ethan Furne and Valedictorian Ella Cool were introduced.

Furne opened his speech with a joke.

“You see, most of you probably didn’t have a doubt in your mind that I would graduate but let me tell you, it wasn’t as easy as you think. You see, by day I attended school, played sports, and did brutal workouts but, as night fell and darkness rose, the town needed protecting, I was in the shadows fight-

ing crime and serving justice all before the break of dawn, and that is why I was late to school every morning.”

He then reminisced on the past 12 years.

“As we all gather here today, roughly 4,600 days since we started this journey together it’s finally our time to clock out. It may sound cheesy but I remember kindergarten graduation like yesterday and hearing class of 2025, at the time I doubt I even thought an ounce about the year 2025. Now look at us we are back in those grad caps but this time 12 years older and 12 years later. Looking back on all the years walking these halls, there have been many firsts and many lasts.”

The salutatorian closed out his speech talking to his classmates.

“To close off my time up here I’m talking to the class now. Some of us will move away, some will come back home but whatever we do wherever we go



The Class of 2025 exits the stage after receiving their diplomas at the 112th Annual A.H.S. Commencement on Saturday, May 10.

Arnold will always be our home and the place where we made friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. We will always be able to reflect on the memories we have had together, the laughter, the

tears, and the yelling we did. All that matters anymore is that we remember our roots and chase those goals and we’ll all do just fine.”

Ella Cool then delivered the valedictory address.

“Good afternoon, everyone. Today marks the celebration of years of hard work and dedication. I’m thrilled to recognize this milestone—one made

See **Graduation** page 6.

School Will Hold First Community Engagement Meeting for Proposed Facility

Arnold Schools has announced that it will hold its first community engagement meeting to present and answer questions about the potential facility project being considered on Tuesday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m., in the school gym.

Thanking Our EMTs

The week of May 18-24, communities across the nation will be recognizing and thanking Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals for their dedication and service during National EMS Week. It’s a time to show gratitude to EMTs, paramedics, and other EMS personnel who provide critical lifelines and care.

In this issue, the Arnold community celebrates and thanks our ten EMTs who provide crucial pre-hospital medical care and transportation for individuals experiencing medical emergencies or injuries.

Beep! Beep!

Arnold man reunited with long-lost Road Runner



With a span of 50 years between their ownership of a 1969 Plymouth Road Runner, Jason Meyer (left) and Bob Hough of Arnold kneel beside the restored muscle car in Meyer’s hometown of Hartford, Kansas. - Courtesy photo

By Janet Larreau

The exact moment that Bob Hough spotted a 1969 Plymouth Road Runner that he just had to have has become a little murky in his mind, but he does remember he was 19, or something like that.

“I believe I owned it in ‘71. It was metallic bronze with a vinyl top. It looked really good and went really fast. There were a lot of muscle cars out there – Camaros, Vets, Chargers. It was the thing to do,” said Hough, who resides in Arnold with wife Karen.

Characterized by their powerful engines and aggressive styling, muscle cars were in their golden age at the time. Demand for these cars took off in the mid-1960s and continued through the early 1970s before being impacted by fuel crises and stricter emission standards.

The cost of a brand new Road Runner at the time

was about \$3,000.00 – more if it was a hardtop. Hough bought his used for somewhere around \$1,500.00, including interest, and made monthly payments of at least \$67.00 a month for a couple of years.

He was a single guy working for Don Henry on Stop Table southeast of Arnold. His long hair fit right in with the times.

“One picture I have of the car is when I got married. It was decorated at our wedding in 1973. When my kids see our wedding pictures, they think it’s terrible how long my hair was, but I had it cut for the wedding; it was the shortest it had been in years,” Hough chuckled.

He listened to the softer side of rock when he was driving around and didn’t crank it up like most young people did, because, as he says, he could hear at the time.

“I believe (my music’s) louder now,” he joked.

And, as it always does, life changed. He sold the

Road Runner around 1974, trading it in for a pickup to accommodate his new family. The new buyer – a kid that just got his driver’s license – brought his mom and her checkbook along.

“After we took a ride in it, and I saw his eyes, I knew I didn’t ask enough. He would have promised his mom anything. I have a copy of where I signed the title over to him. I noticed it has my dad’s name on it. Somebody had to sign for it; I wasn’t old enough to get a loan,” he said.

Hough forgot all about that Road Runner until one day this past winter, when he received a surprise phone call from a guy in Hartford, Kansas. He said he had the car and a record of who owned it.

The guy was Jason Meyer, a master mechanic at a Hartford car dealership and a muscle car enthusiast. He purchased the car from a fellow Hartford resident in 2001 with his dad, Richard Meyer, a retired farmer/truck driv-

er who is also a MOPAR muscle car enthusiast going way back when he owned a couple of Dodge Chargers. He was the one who got his son into muscle cars when he was younger.

“We bought it for \$4,200.00, as is. It was a rolling shell, with no motor, and was full of rust, beyond what we could see initially. It was a father/son project that we weren’t sure what we

“The novelty of the Road Runner featuring a Looney Tunes character is always a big hit, especially the sound of the Beep! Beep! horn.”

- Jason Meyer - the current owner of the fully restored ‘69 Road Runner

were getting ourselves into,” said Jason.

Originally, the pair didn’t plan to do a full restoration on the Road Runner, but one thing led to another. The restoration

“It looked really good and went really fast.”

- Arnold resident Bob Hough on why he bought a Plymouth Road Runner in his teen years

project took three-plus years, and the job will never be done, as they are still working on perfecting all the small, cosmetic details today – 20 years later. It’s not exactly the same car; replacing the vinyl top proved to be way too expensive, so now the hood has black stripes.

Jason said the car’s history had always intrigued him. He requested a title search back in 2004 in Kansas. It didn’t give him all the information he wanted, but it gave him enough to start piecing some information together. He had made contact with Hough, and even the owner who Hough had sold it to, but never went much further than that

See **Beep! Beep!** page 6.



The Meyers now pop the hood of the Road Runner at shows, showcasing its new, powerful motor. - Courtesy photo