



# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 109, NUMBER 08

## SORC Documents 25 Years of Racing

Hard-bound souvenir book goes on sale end of July

“The history of the Sandhills Open Road Challenge (SORC) is complex. It is about one man’s dream and key players who came alongside to develop what is now known as the most challenging road race in America. It took a vision. It took a community. It took drivers and camaraderie. It took permission from the Custer County Board of Supervisors. It took landowner permission. It took at least 11 fire trucks and three ambulances from area volunteer fire departments. It took two crop-dusting planes capable of dropping water. It took a \$4,500 insurance premium for a two million dollar policy. It took 100 trainable volunteers. It took all of this and more to make the first race possible...”

The above introduction to the much anticipated Sandhills Open Road Challenge 25th anniversary souvenir book gives readers just a glimpse of what’s to follow in the 102-page hard-bound cover book that took months to

compile and design. The book will be on sale by this week’s SORC event. The research involved in documenting every aspect of 25 years of racing in Arnold was no easy task. “It’s got everything,” said Kristi Dvorak of KD Agency, who designed the book while working with a group of dedicated volunteers.

Following is a highlight of a few things included in the book:

- SORC’s history, including memories from Joe Shown, Don Olson, and Gary Patterson
- Photos and top results from the inaugural event
- Interviews with drivers who have participated for 24 years
- How SORC put together several aspects of race week, including registration/check-in, tech, numbering, timing and scoring, housing, and preparing volunteers
- A look back at the Thedford Grudge Match in 2008
- Loup 2 Loup
- Shootout, including a feature of four drivers

with current records.

- Friday afternoon events
- Saturday’s race
- Saturday’s barbecue and awards
- A list of sponsors who have supported SORC since the beginning
- Photo gallery of memories from 2001-2025
- A list of the 650 drivers who have participated to date
- Lifetime number holders
- Volunteers, including the safety crews
- A recount of how the Winter Party began by Bruce Younglove
- Projects and organizations SORC has supported with the proceeds

Books are available to reserve or purchase from Becky Dailey at First State Insurance for \$60 each and at the Arnold Community Center during SORC registration. A copy can also be mailed (shipping charges will apply). For more information, e-mail: [info@sorcace.com](mailto:info@sorcace.com) or contact Becky Dailey.

### SORC SOUVENIR BOOK

25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

- **HARDCOVER BOOK**
- **102 COLOR PAGES**
- **INCLUDES PHOTOS & INFO FROM 2001-2025**
- **COST: \$60**

*Features:*

- DRIVERS
- VOLUNTEERS

The Sandhills Open Road Challenge has been promoting its 25th anniversary special edition souvenir book as part of the big celebration planned for August 7-9.

## SORC Estimates \$1.75 Million of Proceeds Donated to Area Since Inception

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Sandhills Open Road Challenge 2025 souvenir book:

The Sandhills Open Road Challenge (SORC) has made a significant impact on Arnold and the surrounding communities since its inception in 2001. The support from landowners, volunteers, sponsors, board members, host homes, drivers, navigators, and volunteer fire

and rescue personnel has been vital in driving the success of each event. Not only does the local economy receive a tremendous boost during race week, but SORC has enriched the area by donating approximately \$1.75 million of its proceeds.

Examples of SORC’s donations include:

- Over \$355,000 to the Arnold Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department and other area departments.

This has elevated the care they provide and allows them to tackle emergencies more efficiently with the purchase of equipment such as Jaws of Life, a John Deere Gator, a command vehicle, 12 Lead ECG, and bunker gear.

More than \$441,000 has been contributed to Arnold community projects and organizations, including Arnold Chamber, Arnold Community Center, Arnold Food Pantry,

Arnold Cemetery, Arnold Golf Association, Finch Memorial Library, Rialto Theater, Riverview Apartments, Arnold Area Historical Museum, Arnold Veteran’s Memorial, 4th of July community fireworks, Operation Christmas Child, and various youth groups.

Over \$213,000 has been donated to Arnold Public Schools for timing

See **SORC DONATIONS**, page 10.

## Senator Storer Will Be In Arnold Today

Senator Storer will be in Arnold on Thursday, July 31, and invites constituents to join her for a meet and greet at BrewBakers from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This informal event offers community members a chance to meet the Senator, hear about the recent legislative session, and share any questions or concerns.

In the evening, Senator Storer will be speaking at the Arnold Rotary Club meeting at 6:30 p.m.

## New School Census

Arnold Public Schools has released its 2025 census report of the number of children ages 5-18 in the district. The current total is 220 children, compared to 223 in the last census, a -1.35% change. The district count broken down includes 196 children. See **SCHOOL CENSUS**, page 10.

## Weekly Farmers Market Is Booming

Arnold’s Farmers Market was in full swing on July 24, filling up the east side of South Walnut Street. Twelve vendors were offering garden vegetables, baked goods, jewelry, honey, craft items, and bath salts. The farmers markets are held every Thursday morning through September.

