

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 109, NUMBER 09

## 25 Years and Counting...

Behind the scenes,  
Dailey has been  
keeping SORC organized

By Janet Larreau

How do you keep up with organizing a road race that grew from 35 cars the first year, to over 160 twenty-five years later? Arnold’s Sandhills Open Road Challenge has seen some terrific and dedicated board members come and go, but only two of remained steadfast – Becky Dailey and Joe Shown.

Shown, who threw out the crazy idea of holding an open road race on the Arnold-Dunning road at an Arnold Chamber meeting a quarter of a century ago, said words just don’t cut it when trying to describe what Dailey has done – both as secretary and treasurer - to keep it all going.

“She’s the glue that keeps it all together. She’s the boss,” he said. “I started calling her The Queen Bee years ago. She makes decisions when no one else is around, and they’re always good ones. There’s no bigger supporter of the SORC. We depend on her. It’s easy to become accepting of excellence. And then you think, wait a minute, this person knows what they’re doing.”

Dailey said she doesn’t really remember who asked her to help with the new event, but she’s pretty sure she was around when they started talking about it.

“I thought it sounded like something I wanted to help with, because I like to

See 25 YEARS AND COUNTING, page 5.



Sandhills Open Road Challenge treasurer Becky Dailey unpacks branded items for the event’s welcome bags. She’s been a vital part of the race since its inception. - Debbie Connolly photo



## Road Race Starts Up Today

On August 6th, more than 160 high performance cars will converge on Arnold, Nebraska, for the 25th Annual Sandhills Open Road Challenge.

The event will begin on August 7th with the 22-mile Loup 2 Loup Open Road Race between Halsey and Purdum, Nebraska. The One Mile Shoot Out will be on Friday, August 8th, to be held 14 miles north of Cozad followed by an afternoon car show in downtown Arnold.

Cars and drivers will line up in Arnold on Saturday, August 9th for an 8:30 a.m. start of the 56-mile open road race between Arnold and Dunning, Nebraska.

The event will culminate in the evening with a free will donation barbecue and award ceremony in the Arnold Community Park.

Event schedule details can be found inside this issue or at [www.sorcrace.com](http://www.sorcrace.com)

## Village Board Given Presentation on Third Party Nuisance Abatement Program

Decision will be made at board’s regular meeting August 11

By Janet Larreau

Village Board members held a special meeting on Monday, July 28, to hear a presentation on the West Central Nebraska Development District’s (WCNDD) Nuisance Abatement Program. About 15 people, including a few from neighboring Callaway, turned out for the meeting. WCNDD

Executive Director Edward Dunn, who gave the Power Point presentation in the community center’s gym, said he was glad to see residents attend the presentation – something he really doesn’t see in other communities.

“I drove around town before coming here, and it’s in good shape compared to others. Your community center could be a model for others,” said Dunn, who resides in Grant.

WCNDD’s Nuisance Abatement Program brings a third-party approach to code enforcement in communities that are plagued by nuisances in their neighborhoods.

Monday night’s close to 2-hour presentation was held in order for Arnold to consider submitting an application for the program, which would make WCNDD’s program staff the official compliance officers.

Dunn said nuisance abatement matters to a town because it creates safer living environments, prevents blight and deterioration, addresses public health concerns, improves community pride and appearance, and has economic development

benefits. It also increases property values and provides tax base protection for a town’s essential services. According to real estate studies, properties adjacent to nuisance properties can lose 5-15% of their value.

Dunn went over WCNDD’s 19-step abatement process, starting with the city or village formally adopting a Nui-

sance Ordinance through proper legal channels, followed by appointment of a nuisance officer.

Dunn emphasized that every decision made during the process is rooted in fairness and impartiality. He would like to see Arnold divided into four sections of 150-200 parcels, with each sec-

See NUISANCE ABATEMENT, page 2.



Custer County Foundation board member Christopher Wickham presents check to Riverview Apartments board member Rose Bierman and Rotarian Ron Cool for the Rotary project.



Custer County Foundation board member Jodi Smith presents a check to Renee Bubak for the Arnold Area Historical Society project.



Custer County Foundation President Andrew Tickler presents a check to Marcy Lucas for the Finch Library project.



Christopher Wickham presents a check to Arnold Cemetery Board member Becky Dailey for the cemetery project.

## Arnold Organizations Receive Match from Give 4 Custer County

Representatives from four Arnold organizations attended a celebration of success of the Give 4 Custer County event held July 26 in the Broken Bow square. Custer County Foundation, Inc. board members presented checks to 43 non-profit organizations in the county that participated. Fundraising events took place June 16th through June 20th to be counted towards Give 4 Custer County to be eligible for the matching pool of funds.

The following Arnold organizations received checks totaling \$51,328.22:

**Arnold Cemetery Board (for cemetery road improvements):**

Amount raised - \$4,787.50; CCF match - \$696.51; Total payout - \$5,484.01.

**Finch Memorial Library (for library basement improvements)**

Amount raised - \$3,971.50; CCF match - \$577.79; Total payout - \$4,549.29.

**Arnold Area Historical Society - (Cornerstone project)**

Amount raised \$10,792.67; CCF match - \$1,570.17; Total payout - \$12,362.84

**Arnold Rotary (garages at Riverview Apartments)**

Amount raised - \$25,257.50; CCF match - \$3,674.58; Total payout - \$28,932.08

(Arnold Rotary ended up in 3rd place on the leaderboard in the final number; behind Nebraska One Box Pheasant Hunt and Bulldog Education Foundation)