

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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One to Remember...

SORC 2025 goes off “without a hitch”

By Janet Larreau

The 25th anniversary of the Sandhills Open Road Challenge will be one to remember. Mother Nature was good, everyone did their jobs, and people turned out for the big celebration.

“It went off without a hitch,” said SORC Board President Clay Mohr, who spent a good part of Sunday tidying things up with other volunteers. “Kudos to the board members for working so well together. It’s nice to know you can count on everyone to do their job. This community event of people working together is pretty special. If it all ran like this every year, we’d be tickled

to death.”

The anniversary celebration included recognizing the man who made it happen. At Friday night’s driver’s meeting held at the community center, a large crowd applauded as Arnold Village Board Chairperson Zach Hagler designated the 2nd Saturday of August as “Joe Shown Day.” Shown, who founded the event in 2000, was surprised and emotional, as Hagler presented him the framed proclamation for his lasting contribution to not only the Village, but the surrounding area as well.

Some 520 people were served at Saturday night’s barbecue in the city park. Chamber chairperson Barb Gunther said it was

the best turnout yet, with drivers and navigators seeing a need and lining up to help carry roasters.

“I have so many (roasters), that they wanted to help. I had to put (the volunteers) in about 15 to 20 minute increments, so all of them got their chance to carry one. They stood there patiently, asking ‘Is it my turn yet?’” she said.

More people who have been involved since the inception of SORC were recognized at the awards ceremony that followed. Among them was Gary Patterson of Nevada, who congratulated everyone on working together and passing the torch to

See ONE TO REMEMBER, page 2.



In front of a good crowd at Friday night’s driver’s meeting, Arnold Village Board Chairperson Zach Hagler (left) surprised SORC founder Joe Shown with a framed proclamation, naming the 2nd Saturday of August as “Joe Shown Day.” - Debbie Connelly photo



The Finest In The Land

Primped and in tip-top shape for the judges, Gerty, an adorable White Silkie pullet, poses with the top awards that she and exhibitor Ian Holmberg won in the poultry division at the Custer County Fair. These awards, and many more, were earned by members of the South Loup 4-H Club at fair. Turn to page 4 and 5 to see all the results and more photos. - Courtesy photo

APS Continues to “Beef Up” Lunch Program

Partners up with three local businesses to purchase 4-H steers

By Arnold School Superintendent Joel Morgan

What began with a joint venture with Pinnacle Bank in 2023 to purchase a beef while supporting local 4-H, Arnold students, and bring a local beef source into our school, the Custer County Fair 4-H Livestock Auction has now become a consistent venture with local businesses.

At this year’s auction, Arnold Public Schools was able to partner with three local businesses once again to purchase 4-H steers. The night began with Nansel’s Best Service and Arnold Insurance Agency purchasing a steer raised by Kirby Viter, daughter of Amos

& Jessi Viter. Nansel’s Best Service was responsible for the bidding as the premium sponsor and Arnold Insurance Agency paid the base price. Pinnacle Bank also purchased a steer raised by Colter Dailley, son of Lindy & Della Dailey. Pinnacle Bank was also responsible for the bidding as the premium sponsor with school paying the base price.

The two beef will be processed in the coming month. We are fortunate to have donations made to the Arnold Community Foundation Fund specifically to support our beef program by covering processing costs. I would like to thank SteakMaster Inc. in Elwood for their willingness to work with me and make room for us

for processing. They are a local USDA inspected facility that we use on a frequent basis for any whole beef donations made to the school.

Another highlight from the night was knowing that two other local schools replicated our process. Both Anselmo-Merna Schools and Sargent Schools purchased beef as well.

I can think of no better way to support 4-H, local students, local producers, and provide quality beef to our students through our hot lunch program. If you would be interested in helping APS make this sustainable in future years, please give me a call or stop in.

School Welcomes Three New Teachers



Courtney Beshaler, 6th Grade



Erin Wyckoff, 1st Grade



Jessica Vohs, 2nd Grade

As the new school year begins on August 14, Arnold Public Schools is welcoming three new teachers.

Courtney Beshaler will be teaching sixth grade, taking the place of Katie Blowers, who moved to the Title I position.

Ms. Beshaler, who comes from a very long line of A.H.S. graduates and makes Arnold her home, is wrapping up her Behavior Science degree with a teaching endorsement.

She spent many years working in management and sales and was encouraged to try substitute teaching in some of her free time. She has spent the last year as a substitute teacher in Arnold and in Callaway and fell in love.

“With the exception of homeschooling my own kids, I had never considered teaching until last year,” she said. “I found myself waking up in the mornings excited to get

to school and be with the kids. I learned so much and made so many great friends during this time, and maybe most importantly, I think I made some real connections with the kids. I just can’t imagine being anywhere else! I am grateful to be able to spend each day with so many other amazing teachers, fantastic administration, fun yet complex personalities of all the kids here, and the bonus of being at ‘work’

with my own children as well. My hope for the upcoming school year is for the students to really enjoy coming to school, learn a lot, feel safe, supported and encouraged, help them blossom and to make my family proud.”

Two of her five kids, Tristian and Julian, are out of school, and younger siblings, Asher, Scout, and Riot, are enrolled at Arnold.

FIRST GRADE

Erin Wyckoff will be the

new first grade teacher. Originally from Mullen, she received her degree from Chadron State College. She lives with husband Dustin, who works for Custer Public Power, and son Camden between Broken Bow and Callaway. She is expecting a baby in January.

“After being a para, I decided that teaching was the end goal,” she said. “I chose Arnold because it seems like a big family. I’m excited to bring a

sense of care and community into my classroom. I look forward to a great school year filled with learning, laughter, and growing together, and I look forward to working with all the teachers and administrators.”

SECOND GRADE

Jessica Vohs will be teaching second grade. She received her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Her teaching goals are to build a positive and welcoming environment for all students.

“I chose teaching as a career because my mom was always a teacher growing up, and I really enjoyed being at school early and late every day, getting to help teachers in the building. I chose Arnold because I love a small community and getting to help out in the small community,” she said.

Originally from Iowa, Ms. Vohs’ family includes her mom and dad, Shantelle and Jeff, an older sister, and a younger brother.