

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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First Day of School Kicks Off With Family Fun Day



First graders play hula hoops Thursday afternoon, August 14, on the football field as part of Arnold School's first-ever Family Fun Day. The event was a great way to kick off the first day of school, with kids in Grades K-6 rotating through a schedule of relay races, frisbee tosses, 3 legged races, obstacle course, and long jump. With high temperatures and humidity prevailing, everyone was ready for a Tropical Sno when their turn came. Families were invited to hang out and watch the events. - Debbie Connelly photos



Elementary girls cool off with a colorful Tropical snow cone at the school's concession stand.

Village Appoints Superintendent

Votes to submit nuisance abatement application

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees appointed Eric Holmberg as the new Village Superintendent at their regular meeting held on August 11. In other business, board members voted unanimously to submit an application to West Central Nebraska Development District for the Nuisance Abatement Program. Before taking a vote, discussion was held on how the program would take code enforcement out of the Village's hands, and that WCNDD would provide a fair and impartial review of the properties.

Representing the Sandhills Open Road Challenge (SORC), Becky Dailey informed board members that the Nebraska Department of Transportation has approved the application for a SORC sign and according to regulations, the sign has to be owned by the Village. SORC has an agreement from Robbi and Shelley Smith allowing the sign to be put on their property. Board members voted to grant permission to SORC to install the sign and that the Village will be the owner. Comments from the Village Clerk:

Board members were informed that there will be a special meeting on September 2 for a public hearing and budget workshop. The public hearing will be on a Class C Liquor License Application for South Fork Design LLC, dba The Highlander.

The grant application for a Scrap Tire Cleanup Event has been submitted to the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment. Grant funds requested are \$26,487.00.

Camping fees from August 1-9 totaled \$3,295.00.

In other business, the Board:

- Issued a Conditional Use Permit to the Arnold Area Historical Society to permit the property at 203 W Jefferson to be used for a museum (upper level) and bed and breakfast (lower level).
- Issued a Conditional Use Permit to Neil Coleman to permit the property at 103 N Broadway to be used to construct the 2nd half of the existing storage units.
- Appointed Judy Gracey to the Arnold Housing Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Lee Eastburn.

Carroll Street Courts Project Given the Green Light

The Carroll Street Courts project almost hit a financial snag at the August 11 Village Board meeting, but because of decisions made at that time and public support, the project will proceed as planned.

Mary Becker updated board members on grants received for cement work, including \$12,000.00 from the Arnold Community Foundation and \$5,000.00 from the Custer County Foundation. She explained that the CCF grant is a reimbursement grant that will be paid to the Village once the work is completed. The work must be completed within six months of the May 2025 award. With an additional grant of \$2,000.00 from SORC, the total grant money comes to \$19,000.00 for cement work.

At the March 10 Village Board meeting, members voted to allocate up to \$20,000.00 to the rebuilding of the courts, minus \$6,796.00 for fencing expenses. These allocated funds, plus the grants, add up to \$32,204.00 available for cement work.

Other Carroll Street Courts costs include a tennis net system and pickleball nets for \$3,500.00 to \$4,500.00. Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation has awarded a \$3,500.00 grant to the Village for painting the lines. This work must also be completed within six months of the June 2025 grant award. There is no information currently available for the total costs of painting the lines.

After Becker's update, sealed bids were opened for concrete and labor for the project. Greeley Concrete LLC's bid came in at \$45,000.00, and SG Concrete Pros Inc. was \$48,757.00. By accepting the lower of the two bids, the shortfall for the

cement work would be \$12,796.00.

In discussion that followed, Board member Donnell DeLosh said that he doesn't want to lose the grant money for the project, adding that money has already been put into the fence, and the Village needs to finish the project so that it looks nice. RT Green said that he would donate \$1,000.00 towards the project, and he will talk to others about donating.

It was mentioned that the fiscal year begins on October 1, 2025, so the Carroll Street Courts project could be included in the budget.

Board members accepted Greeley Concrete LLC's bid of \$45,000.00, giving the project the green light.

Becker said Greeley Concrete will not be able to pour the concrete until next spring or early summer, and she will have to ask for extensions on the grants.

"I have a vision for that place with picnic tables and trees. (The project's) been delayed a little, but it will happen," she said.

How to Make a Will Meeting Set at Arnold

The Custer County Foundation will be hosting an informational meeting on making a will, Thursday, August 21, at 6:00 p.m., at the Arnold Community Center. Information will be provided by a local, knowledgeable professional. Supper will be provided.

Lost In The Cracks

Red Sand Project raises awareness about human trafficking

Rotary Interact students and Rotarians gathered in downtown Arnold on Tuesday, August 12, to raise awareness about human trafficking in Nebraska and the world. The participatory art project created by Molly Cochman symbolized those who have "fallen through the cracks" of society and become vulnerable to exploitation.

Both students and adults, including Interact sponsor Nicole Badgley, spoke about the issue that impacted 2,000 people last year in Nebraska alone. It is estimated that human trafficking impacts 40 million people worldwide, and is the third largest illicit industry in the world generating over \$150 billion a year. It can occur anywhere and can happen to anyone, even in small communities where people feel safe. Badgley spoke about an incident involving a young female where intervention was needed.

The project aims to encourage people to question, connect, and take action against vulnerabilities that lead to trafficking and exploitation.

Interact is an off-shoot of Rotary and a global network of volunteers who share a passion for enhancing communities and improving lives worldwide. Interact clubs participate in an array of service projects that address community needs at home and abroad.

If you believe you may have information about a trafficking situation: Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888: Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7 to take reports of potential human trafficking. In Nebraska, call the toll-free hotline at 1-833-757-5665.



Arnold Interact students Anna Tullis, Luke Tullis, and Hayden Myers pour red sand into the cracks of a downtown sidewalk on August 12, raising awareness about human trafficking through what is called the Red Sand Project. - Debbie Connelly photo