

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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We’ve Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

Arnold Community Shows School Spirit at Fall Festival



After hearing them practice on the streets since the start of school, the community was excited to see the Arnold Cardinal 7-12 marching band perform at Saturday’s Fall Festival parade. “We still have a lot of growing to do, but it has been so awesome watching them go from where we started to what they’re doing now,” said band director Tonya Welch. “They think I’m just saying that because I have to when I tell them how proud of them I am, but I am so stinking proud of them! Every rehearsal gets a little bit better, they stay in step and in line a little more and play the song a little stronger. Marching is hard. I’m glad most of them are still excited about it and are enjoying it. I’m glad nobody minds us going around disturbing the peace.”

- Debbie Connelly photo

Fun Weekend Wraps Up

There were a lot of smiles and laughs last weekend, as the community of Arnold celebrated Homecoming and took in all that the Fall Festival had to offer. Rotary kicked off the annual festival on Saturday morning with a pancake feed and fun run/walk at the Arnold Recreation Area. Mid-morning, 27 parade entries lined up at the Methodist Church with a good crowd waiting along the route. Judging was held, with Nailz for Starz winning the School Spirit award, the Arnold Cardinal Band winning Best Dressed, and the Baptist Church winning Best Float. The American Legion Color Guard led the parade, and the band stopped to play The National Anthem, directed by Tonya Welch. After the parade, the South Loup 4-H Club served hamburgers and hotdogs in the park, and everyone dispersed to have fun on amusements provided by the Arnold Festival committee, and activities sponsored by the art club, N.H.S. and Jr. Honor Society. Activities were also set up for the adults, including the hilarious Cardinal vs. Bobcat tug-of-war and driver’s ed/golf carts, with Heidi Kulp placing 1st, Justin Conner 2nd, and Brent Kulp and Michelle Preston tying for 3rd and 4th. Vendors were set up, offering some sweet treats on a beautiful day.

Several pages inside this issue are dedicated to both Homecoming and the Festival.

Homecoming Royalty



Brook Bierman and Crew Witthuhn were crowned Arnold High School’s queen and king of Homecoming following the South Loup vs. Sandhills Valley football game on the Arnold field.

- Debbie Connelly photo

Junk Jaunt Is Coming

With both hard copy and digital shopping guides in hand, bargain hunters from everywhere will be rolling through Arnold later this week on their way to the Nebraska Junk Jaunt Byway “loop.” Local coordinator Amanda Wehnes reports that 12 vendors have officially signed up in Arnold; some will be setting up as early as mid-week, catching early birds as they drive through. The official Junk Jaunt dates are

Friday through Saturday, September 26-28.

Following are the Arnold vendor locations:

1. Terry L. Conley – 506 S Hillcrest St.
2. Corrie Yeargain – 103 E 4th Ave.
3. Mills Hardware – 103 E Arnold Ave.
4. Cindy Chesley – 215 S Walnut St.
5. Four County Boutique – 117 S Walnut St.
6. BrewBakers Coffee House & Gifts – 106 S Walnut St.

7. Cedar Shadows Photography – 109 N Walnut St.

8. Finch Memorial Library – 205 N Walnut St.
9. 100+years of Family Antique Collecting – 708 N Broadway St
10. Chris Kuczynski – 507 W Madison
11. Nancy Fox – 309 N Walnut
12. Gary Larreau – 205 Cedar Street

Each year there are about 35 villages and towns that are part of Ne-

braska’s JUNK JAUNT®. About 20 towns are located on the actual Byway ‘loop’ while the others are located on both the west & east sides of the loop and in the center of the ‘loop’. Each JUNK JAUNT® town organizes itself so sales and events can be as unique as is the town itself. For more information, visit the Nebraska Junk Jaunt website.

Mike Harvey Awarded CC Legionnaire of the Year

Mike Harvey of Arnold was named the 2025 Custer County Legionnaire of the Year at the 97th Annual Custer County Convention of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. Hosted by Merna Post 50, the event was held on September 14 at the Merna Community Hall.

The award was well deserved. In his nomination, Legion Post 130 Commander John Phillips wrote:

“American Legion Post 130 is proud to nominate Michael D. Harvey for Custer County Legionnaire of the Year 2025. For three decades Mike has been our Honor Guard Commander and has commanded us in parades and celebrations, burial details, posting Colors at Independence Day and high school sporting events, Veterans Day Programs, Memorial Day Programs and involved us in other area post’s details when they are short handed. “Mike consistently represents Post 130 in County

and District Conventions and more than a few State Conventions. He has been a mainstay in attending County Government Day, in helping decorate our fallen’s graves with flags and crosses on Memorial Day, and in programs presented to inculcate Americanism in our youth.

“Another program Mike has been heavily involved in for nearly three decades is to accumulate scrap metal for recycling in cleaning up the area and raising funds for Legion programs and operations. In fact, he has spearheaded this effort in the last two decades at great time, effort and expense to himself.

“In the last year Mr. Harvey has headed a committee to design, create and fund a Veteran’s Memorial at the intersection of Highways 92 and 47 in the center of Arnold. His committee members have traveled to many such memorials to present designs to the Post on their own time and expense and have finalized a plan. They have also gone to

County and Village Board Meetings to gain the necessary easements, deeds and approval. Mike has successfully written several grants which have been awarded, also. They have raised over \$160,000 to date and the Memorial is nearing completion.

“Mike Harvey has been an integral part of making our community a better place for all through his work as an educator, administrator, solid citizen and a Veteran of the U. S. Army having served in Vietnam. It is my great pleasure and honor to nominate Michael D. Harvey as the 2025 Legionnaire of the Year.”

A certificate of continuous membership was also presented to Arnold Squadron #130 for maintaining a charter in good standing of the Sons of American Legion Detachment of Nebraska for 15 years.

The annual convention includes a joint session, reports, committee appointments, and elections.



Custer County Legion Commander William Schaad (right) presents Mike Harvey the 2025 Custer County Legionnaire of the Year award at Legion’s annual convention held on September 14th at Merna. - Courtesy photo