

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Wyland Urbanovsky narrates while other narrators, (from left) Coen Witthuhn, Layne Logsdon, Owen Brown, and Ian Holmberg, gather around, during the 3rd and 4th grade presentation of “The Great Cocoa Explosion,” on December 4, as part of the school’s annual elementary Christmas program. - Jessica Tickle photo

“The Claus Files”

Elementary students solve cases at annual Christmas program

“From cocoa explosions to cookie conspiracies...”

Arnold music director Tonya Welch gave the above program teaser of what was to come last December 4, as parents, grandparents, and friends gathered in the school’s auditorium to enjoy the elementary presentation of “The Claus Files.”

The program featured a holiday set design by stage manager Lindsay Christensen, and Jaden Baker ran the lights as the kids took the stage.

Preschool teacher Brittny Payne directed her students in celebrating the season, and kindergarten, first, and second graders followed with their own Christmas tunes.

And then third and fourth graders presented “The Great Cocoa Explosion.” Mrs. Welch’s play description gave everyone just a hint of what was to come: “Something strange is bubbling at the North Pole with chocolate chaos everywhere. Two

tired officers finally have the excitement they’ve been waiting for. Hold onto your marshmallows...”

The cast of characters, included:

Narrators: Wyland Urbanovsky, Layne Logsdon, Coen Witthuhn, Ian Holmberg, and Owen Brown.

Elves: Kylie Smith, Brynlee Samuelson, Ruby Kennedy, Will Urbanovsky, and Ashlynn Wilson.

Forensic Elf Squad: Emilee Sexson-Moeller, Jovi Stumper, Addison Kenner, Kowen Dalrymple, and Harley Payne.

Chief Elf Engineer: Kenley McDowell.

Reindeer: Brody Blowers, Aden Corbin, Daneo Urbanovsky, Kenna Baldwin, Maddie Nansel, Julieanna Hunt, Jae’Lynn Eastman, Colter Dailey, and Karson Welch.

Santa: Carter Nansel.

Mrs. Claus: Jerzi Sumpter.

Officer Frost: Zak Schweitzer.

Officer Tinsel: Lainey

Pelster.

Frosty the Snowman: Hunter Hough.

Jack Frost: Beckett Preston.

Gingerbread Man: Bo Bennett.

Before the second play and the close of the show, the audience sat back to enjoy songs played by the sixth grade band, including: Klara Baldwin, Aubry Corbin, and Kate Kulp on the clarinet; Scout Evans on the trumpet; Bo Dailey on the trombone, Parker Neth on the baritone, and Weston McMichael, Carlos Melendez, Cora Leetch, and Brock Samuelson on percussion. The tunes they played were “Jingle Bells,” “Up On the Housetop,” and “Jolly Old St. Nicholas.”

The second play had everyone on the edge of their seats... With Christmas on the line, the North Pole Detective Agency returns to crack their biggest case yet, “The North

See Claus Files, page 2.

School Board Approves Agreement for Serving Senior Meals on Mondays, Accepts Member Resignation

At their December 8 regular meeting, Arnold School Board members voted 4-1 to approve a Senior Meals agreement with South Central Area Agency on Aging to serve senior meals on Mondays. Superintendent Joel

Morgan said by signing the contract, the school will fill the void on Mondays – a day when Grazers Bar & Grill is closed. The meals will be served starting in January and will only be served during the school year. Both options

of carry-out and dine-in will be available. The school is currently working on a schedule of how it will all work.

“Hyannis has been doing this for a couple of years. It’s a good opportunity for folks to be in the building

that don’t always make it in,” said Mr. Morgan.

In other action items, the Board accepted the resignation of board member Bryce Nansel. Three years are left on his term. A notice of vacancy is posted in this issue, and

a new board member will be appointed to take the spot at the January 13 regular meeting.

Approval was given for the purchase of a minivan from the depreciation fund to Gateway Motors. Mr. Morgan said the van

is a replacement through insurance.

Approval was also given for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 sports coop agreement with Callaway Public Schools.

One-Act Team Brings Home State Runner-Up Trophy



The Arnold High School One-Act Team celebrated on December 10, as they received the state runner-up trophy.

Arnold High School earned the Class D-2 runner-up trophy at the State Play Production Championship held at Norfolk on December 10. Arnold garnered 57 points behind state champions St. Mary’s with 59 points. Honorable acting awards went to Noah Anderson, Paxton Bierman, Josie Christensen, Hayden My-

ers, Eli Rogers, Adalei Tullis, and Luke Tullis.

New head coach Debby Moninger said the performances of the one-act play *All for One* developed throughout the season, and each performance showcased that. The judges raved about the set, costumes, and staging with each performance. At the Johnny Carson The-

ater performance, judges commented on a dynamic start with fantastic facial expressions, as well as the sword choreography.

“There were definitely adjustments made throughout the season,” said Mrs. Moninger. “Each performance definitely developed based on judges’ critiques, directing team observations,

and actor suggestions.”

Some of the scenes that were added over the season included a slow-mo scene where deWinter admits her crimes, and a flower scene where D’Artagnan and Constance show their love for each other. Between districts and state, the main focus was adding emotion by slowing down some of

the lines and really emphasizing the characters’ struggles and hopes.

“The senior class did a great job offering and creating energy during performance warm-ups, suggestions on characterization throughout practices, and showing dedication by scheduling focus practices to really develop the character’s

emotions. Brook and Serenity were awesome, mentoring the ensemble, freezes and hubbub. The entire senior class helped as cast members learned to adjust with a new coaching team,” said Mrs. Moninger.