

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Arnold Cemetery Board members David Leach and Kristi Dvorak double check their measurements to make a plot for a cremation burial, while the grave digger begins work. Leach and Dvorak have been learning how to mark graves for burial and headstone placement under the guidance of Tiff Varney. - Courtesy photo

## Cemetery Board Has Productive Year

By Cemetery Board Member Kristi Dvorak

Next month marks one year since the formation of the new Arnold Cemetery board, and my oh my, it's been a very productive year! Board members Dena Mills, David Leach, Kristi Dvorak, Becky Dailey, and Holly Remund began meeting in February 2025 and immediately set to work on creating a list of immediate needs and goals. With the support of the Arnold Township Board, community volunteers, and monetary donations, the board has completed an impressive list of items:

- Elected officers and established a post office box.
- Reviewed current status of bank accounts and established a system for handling expenses and income/donations.
- Initiated and launched the digital mapping system, which uses GIS technology and satellite imagery to create a searchable map of the cemetery, providing access to more than a century of hand-logged information.
- Installed a new culvert and created a new

entrance for large equipment on the southeast corner.

- Cleaned and made repairs to the maintenance building, including replacing the rotting 2 x 12s that cover the well pit for safety purposes.
- Removed the old chain link fence from the north side and southeast corner.
- Removed 11 trees in the fence line on the north and east sides and leveled the ground.
- Applied for and received several grants for repairs and upgrades, including the purchase of a new white fence for the north side and the far southeast corner.
- Cleaned up/trimmed the west bank twice for a cleaner appearance from the highway.
- Made improvements to the regular mowing and trimming procedures.
- Fertilized and deep-watered the new trees three times.
- Cleaned up and removed the dead tree burn pile, junk iron pile, and concrete pile on the east end.
- Repaired potholes in the roads.

- Searched out buried survey markers to assure accurate locating of new plots.
- Learning the process of marking graves for burial and headstone placement, with guidance from Tiff Varney.
- Implemented a formal Policies & Procedures document, which is available upon request or can be downloaded at [www.arnoldcemetery.com](http://www.arnoldcemetery.com).
- Researched area pricing and made adjustments to cemetery fees to reflect current prices/expenses, the first time since the fees were implemented decades ago.
- Created a new mowing contract and guidelines.
- Created and printed thank-you cards for the board to use for donations/memorials.
- New flag pole installed by the American Legion using funds from the veterans memorial project.

Projects that are either in progress or are on the radar for 2026 include:

- Install new white fence on the north side and the southeast corner beginning January 6.
- Award the 2026 mowing

contract by February 15.

- Continual learning/updating of the digital mapping system and website as burials and plot sales occur.
- Electrical improvements are in the works, which include a new electrical panel in the building, running electricity to the flagpole/announcer's stand/gazebo, and to the front entrance.
- With the upgraded electrical and the donation of new flags for the front entrance, flags will fly from Memorial Day to Veterans Day, and lighting will be installed at the front entrance to illuminate them.
- The flag poles will be repainted by Memorial Day 2026.
- Look into using the new digital mapping software to update the printed map on the side of the building.
- Identify and mark veterans buried in the cemetery in the digital mapping software, which will denote them on the digital map and create a printable list for easier placement of memorials.

See Productive Year, Page 2.

## CC Foundation Announces Fall 2025 Grant Awards

(Custer County, NE) The Custer County Foundation reviewed grant requests for the period ending October 31, 2025, and are awarding a total of \$66,054.00 to 14 Custer County organizations. "It's always an exciting time when we get to announce our grant recipients," said Rilee Daffer, Executive Director of the Foundation. "The generous support we receive from our donors, through our annual Gala & Auction in December, enables the Foundation to continue to have a county-wide impact through the grants we can award."



The Foundation Grants committee recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, the following grants:

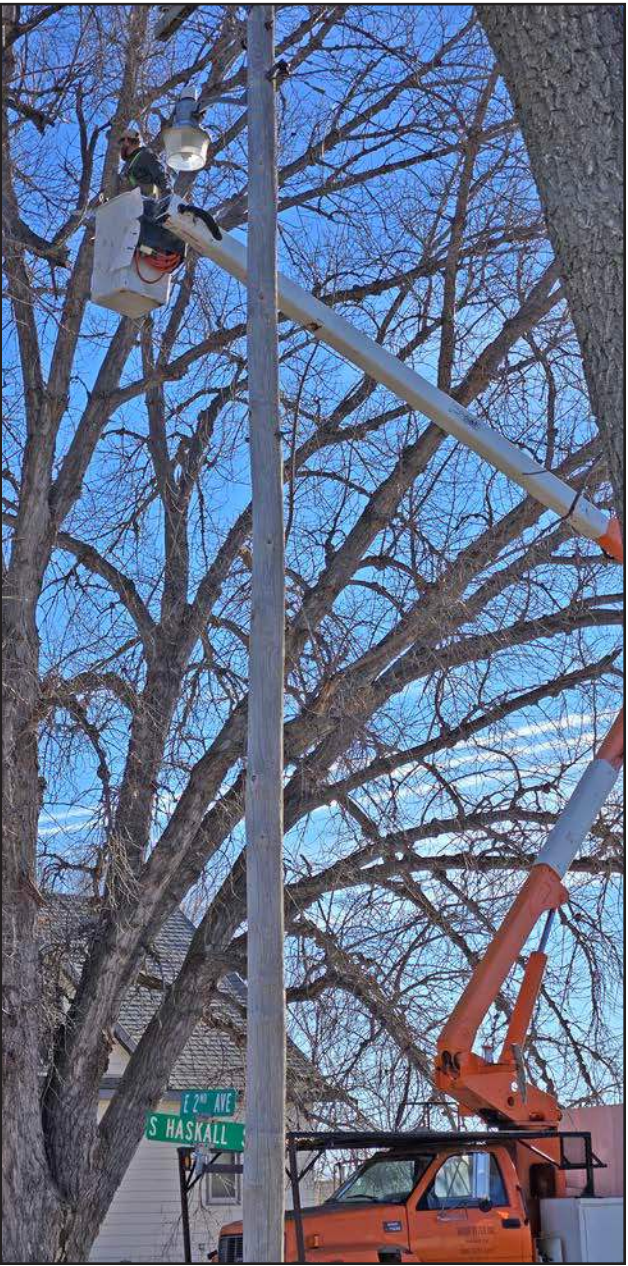
- Anselmo-Merna Public Schools - \$5,000 - to assist in the installation of a greenhouse for Ag Education.
- Ansley Community Improvement Group - \$5,000 - to add a piece of playground equipment at Square Pegs Park in Ansley.
- Ansley Rural Fire Protection District #1 - \$5,000 - to replace an outdated Lucas Device.
- **Arnold Cemetery Board - \$6,800 - to install spotlights on the American Flags year-round.**
- Broken Bow Backpack Program - \$10,000 - To help provide meal vouchers.
- Broken Bow FFA - \$1,054 - to purchase a demonstrative welding table.
- Broken Bow Police Department - \$1,000 - to assist in purchasing 2 bulletproof vests for new officers.
- Broken Bow Volunteer Fire Dept. - \$5,000 - to aid in purchasing a Can Am Defender 6x6 UTV.
- Custer Care - \$3,000 - to add GPS tablets to vehicles for transportation.
- Custer County Youth Sports - \$1,700 - to buy

the TeamSnap app to help with registration for events.

- Healing Hearts & Families - \$13,500 - to purchase educational books and community education/awareness activities.
- Melham Disc Golf Club - \$1,000 - to add baskets and enhance landscaping around baskets.
- **Sandhills Out Reach Charity, Inc. (SORC) - \$3,000 - to assist with installing billboard signs on the edge of Arnold.**
- Sargent Ambulance Service - \$5,000 - to replace an outdated Lucas Device.

The next grant application period ends April 30, 2026. Applications may be accessed online at [www.custercountyfoundation.org](http://www.custercountyfoundation.org). When submitting applications, it is important to complete all the requested information and submit a complete application. Incomplete applications may not be funded. Please reach out to the Custer County Foundation with any questions when filling out the grant application.

The mission of the Custer County Foundation is to seek out, receive, and administer funds to meet the present and future needs of the residents of Custer County. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Call the Foundation at 308-872-2232 for more information.



## Grant Money Goes to Work

Viter Tree Solutions was taking down large trees at the intersection of East 2nd Ave. and South Haskell on Tuesday, December 30. Viter started the job of taking down a total of 25 trees in town and at the Arnold Recreation Area a few days before, on December 26. Arnold Tree Board member Mary Becker said the project is being funded using money from a three-year Nebraska State Arboretum (NSA) grant that was awarded to the Village in September, 2025. Replacement trees will be planted in late spring or early summer, 2026. The trees that are being removed were identified as a risk for public safety by two different professional groups over the last year. Depending on the weather, it will take about 2-3 weeks to remove all of the trees. - Debbie Connelly photos