

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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“Beef. It’s What’s for Lunch”

APS Implements Beef Boosters Initiative

By Leta Connell

“Where’s the Beef?” you may ask. Well, no need to look any further, it is right here at Arnold Public Schools. The Arnold Beef Boosters is an initiative of Arnold Public Schools to bring healthy, locally raised beef into the school cafeteria. This program must operate within the guidelines of the National School Lunch Program, so portion sizes will not be impacted.

The idea of the “Beef in School Program” came from a producer and patron of a smaller school district located in southwest Nebraska. Several schools have voted to implement this program since then, including Arnold and many of our neighboring districts.

The Arnold School Board approved the “Beef in School Program” during the fall of 2016. Time was then spent on logistics and understanding the regulations before officially jumping in with both feet in January 2017.

The next step was to form a committee—the Arnold Beef Boosters—to administer the program and promote it outside of the school. A committee made up of the school superintendent, a school board member and two patrons from the community, administers the Arnold Beef Boosters. Superintendent Dr. Lewis is in charge, with



Head cook Shar Peterson, assistant cook Donna Corbin and Duane Bowers are pictured with the beef donated by Bowers and his wife, Carolyn. After getting it unloaded and into the freezer, Shar commented, “Oh, I think it’s wonderful, and we can’t wait to start using our local beef.” (Leta Connell photo)

board member Tony Eggleston and community members DVM Merle Bierman and Jerry Cool also serving.

Dr. Lewis emphasized, “This local beef initiative has the students excited about eating school lunch, and it is a great way to make a farm-to-school connection. I enjoy

seeing community members take ownership of the management of the program and assist by offering their expertise to provide a quality product for our kids.”

On March 1, 2017, the first donation of a whole beef, donated by Duane and Carolyn Bowers, was received and de-

livered to Arnold Public Schools. Arnold Beef Boosters can accept both cash and live animal donations. Only beef animals up to 36 months of age can be accepted as a beef donation. All beef donations must be as live animals and all animals must be visually in-

spected either by Tony, Merle or Jerry before they can be accepted for slaughter. If someone would like to donate an animal that does not meet the age or general health requirements, that donated animal may be sold and the proceeds used to pay for processing or the purchase of other beef.

A sponsor board displaying all donors is in the works, along with plans to finalize the design of the Arnold Beef Booster logo. The location, logo design and size of the sponsor board should be complete this spring with a proposed installation timeframe before next fall. Donation levels will be recognized as follows: Beef Booster Level \$25-249, Bronze Level \$249-\$499, Silver Level \$500-\$999 or Gold Level \$1000-plus.

To make a donation you may contact any of the committee members. You can reach Dr. Lewis at the school or the other committee members at the following numbers: Tony Eggleston (308) 530-6200, Merle Bierman (308) 627-2502 or Jerry Cool (308) 529-0753. All gifts are donated through the Community Foundation, which will provide donors with a receipt of charitable giving. Cash donations for expenses related to the Arnold Beef Boosters Program can always be utilized. Beef donations for April, August, October and December are still needed for the current year.

South Loup Could Rise to Class C2 Next Year

By Fallon Gibson

At last week’s school board meeting, Superintendent Dr. Dawn Lewis gave the South Loup Bobcats athletic cooperative report, saying that next year, the Bobcats—comprised of athletes from Arnold and Callaway—could jump to class C-2 in volleyball, girls and boys basketball and possibly track, depending on the number of athletes.

She said there will be some changes to next year’s schedule for all sports, such as adding Hershey and Cambridge. Another big change will be a tournament at Grand Island Central Catholic which will help the Bobcats become eligible for “wild card” status. The term “wild card” refers to a team that qualifies for championship playoffs without winning their specific subdivision (usually called a conference or division) outright.

There will be changes to wrestling as well, since they are anticipating a larger team next year. South Loup will be dropping the Elwood and Mullen meets and will attend the Broken Bow invite, instead. Dr. Lewis pointed out that these meets were back-to-back, so it was hard on the athletes. This will also allow them to see some new competition. Medicine Valley was dropped due to some safety concerns. Joe Bob Atkins also volunteered to be a second assistant coach—for no pay—due to the anticipated number of wrestlers participating next year.

The rotation of uniforms has begun, as new basketball and track uniforms have been purchased. It is also a requirement that football pads and helmets are replaced every three years to avoid replacing them all at once. The schools are replacing eight sets at a time, periodically.

The youth wrestling group has said they have an excess of funds and want to help out by donating something again. Last year they purchased a blue wrestling mat that is currently in Callaway, so this year they want to do something for Arnold. They offered to help out with the wrestling room move that is part of the proposed renovation plans. Dr. Lewis said she will keep the donation in mind when more decisions are made.

Kindergarten Teacher

The board approved a contract for a new kindergarten teacher. Traci (Pandorf) Kennedy was chosen unanimously. She and her husband, Bryson, grew up in the Callaway area, and Tracy has been teaching kindergarten for five years. Her husband was also just hired as the new industrial tech teacher at Gothenburg High School. The couple is planning on looking for a house in the Arnold area.

Plumbing Issues

The board’s night started off with a special meeting to discuss fixing plumbing issues that have been found in the kitchen. Clay Mohr and Jerry Preston presented two plans that also hinge on proposed plans to reconfigure

Nelson Qualifies for State Speech in Extemporaneous



Jasmine Nelson proudly displays her first place medal in extemporaneous speaking from the district speech meet. (Courtesy photo)

By A.H.S. Speech Coach Berni Crow

“What Can Social Media Outlets Do To Curtail The Spread of ‘Fake News’?” This was the winning topic for Arnold senior Jasmine Nelson. It takes a special speaker to LOVE extemporaneous speaking, let alone present it.

In this event, the students need to keep up with news in the United States and around the world. They have about an hour to prepare their speech after choosing one of three topics. This is not Jasmine’s first year doing the extemporaneous event, nor is it her first year at state speech. Even though she’s won many medals, this is her first trip to state

speech for extemp, earning first place at the D2-5 District level. Out of 100 possible points, Jasmine earned 97 points earning two superior ratings by her judges and was ranked first by both judges. The judges comments ranged from, “Attention getter is awesome,” “Great vocabulary,” “You worked hard piecing this information together,” “Very brave to give speeches,” “Super facial expressions,” and “Great solution to the problem.” As her coach, I watched the entire finals round and she certainly deserved first place!

In poetry, both Toni Oberg and Lorraine Wonch gave their top-notch performances at the district level.

Lorraine’s poetry consisted of a program of poetry written by her grandfather, Sam Connell, and also a poem by her aunt, Mardell Manary. The focus on family and faith was evident in each of her selections earning two excellent rankings. Toni Oberg just missed finals with her poetry selections that also showcased her faith and desire to make the right choices as she aspires toward her heavenly goal. Toni earned both superior ratings from each judge.

Jarret Buchholz and Dawson Hanna-Miles, a young duet team, made a great impression in their first round earning a second place ranking and a superior rating, calling their version of “Spies” a “cute presentation.” Like all speech presentations, the ‘human’ judging element comes into play, as the pair earned a fifth place and excellent rating in their second round, putting them in the middle of the field of 14 entries.

We missed Ashton Weinman competing in duet with Jasmine, but she had an important date with family. She had a good season, along with the other five, and I’m proud to say they all earned medals and made huge improvements in their events throughout the season.

Jasmine will perform at UNK on Friday, March 24th at 9:30 a.m., with round two beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Board Approves Spot for Sand Volleyball

Gives Okay for Devil’s Den Bike Rally To Be Held at ARA

By Janet Larreau

The Arnold Recreation Area (ARA) was the topic of much discussion at the March 13 village board meeting.

Treasurer Patty Lamberty read a letter written to the board by Ali Rosentrater, who requested that the board approve a location for a new sand volleyball court at the ARA. She suggested that the court be built on the east side of the road, north of the rodeo arena - away from fences and pastures. She asked that the board purchase the volleyball nets and help with the purchase of Round-up to spray for sandburs. The price of the volleyball nets range from \$100.00 to \$250.00, depending on the brand and the type of net. Rosentrater said she would be in charge of bringing in sand from Behshaler’s gravel pit and putting up the net posts. People within the community have agreed to help her with the project. She also asked if the board would consider purchasing a couple of volleyballs that will need to be locked up when not in use.

Some board members had reservations about the request, because the previous court at Old Mill Park wasn’t taken care of. It was mentioned that flooding was an issue there.

Chairman Glen Bowers suggested that Rosentrater could get some donations for

the net, and this would put some ownership on the people who are using the court. He said he would also like to see white PVC pipe installed around the court as a barrier for its durability and aesthetics. The village may have some in stock.

The board approved supplying the location and weed killer and helping with PVC pipe (if available), but denied purchasing the nets and volleyballs.

Bike Rally at ARA

Mike Nelson and Heather Hagler asked the board’s permission for the Devil’s Den Bike Rally to be held at the ARA on Saturday of the rally. They said registration and Friday’s events will be held at the community center, and the poker run would start from the ARA. The two main Saturday events - the concert and the barbecue - would be held at the ARA, north and west of the picnic shelter. The area would be fenced off with the stage located there.

Nelson said that last year, the ARA was almost filled with motorcycles, and some suggested that the event be held there.

Bowers expressed his reservations of security at the recreation area and suggested Old Mill Park instead. Hagler said organizers prefer the ARA for more shade.

It was mentioned that if the board gave its approval,

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