

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Old Elevator Goes Up In Flames



The west grain elevator on the east edge of town goes up in flames last Saturday morning during a controlled burn to destroy the aging structure. (Jessica Tickle photos)

Fourteen Arnold volunteer firemen and EMTs received some valuable training last Saturday, as the old west grain elevator on the east side of town was burned to the ground in a controlled burn.

The firemen worked in groups, wearing protective

gear to crawl inside of the smoke-filled interior, and ran the pumper truck to control the fire from spreading or damaging nearby buildings on the F&F Elevator site. Several of the newer firemen had never fought a structural fire, and this was a perfect exercise, as the 70

ft. elevator went up in flames.

Now that the tall structure is gone, the landscape of the town of Arnold has changed.

The elevator has a long history, beginning in 1912 when the trains came to town. According to [One Hundred Years on the South](#)



With flames blazing behind them from the burning elevator, Arnold Volunteer Fire Chief Eric Nelson (right) gives instructions to another firefighter.

[Loup](#) by Norene Hall Mills, the Kearney-based Western Grain Company completed an elevator east of the depot, which was soon destroyed by fire but immediately rebuilt. It was later known as the Lexington Mill and Elevator. Another elevator and a storehouse were put up nearby by Kearney cattle feeder Ed Gould, as part of the Gould Land and Cattle Company's feeding plant,

said to be the largest such plant in Nebraska.

Forrest Ferguson and Joe McClure bought the east elevator as partners in the 1960s, and one year later, Forrest bought it from Joe. Three or four years later—around 1970—Forrest bought the west elevator, operating

under the name of Farmers & Feeders Elevator.

Forrest retired six or seven years ago, and sold his Nutrina business to Roger Peterson.

Forrest's son Richard said the elevator will never be used again, and the decision was made to burn it down.

Firemen Recognized at Awards Night

Several Arnold Volunteer Fire Department members were recognized for their outstanding service to the department at the Annual AVFD Banquet and Awards Night held last week. Duane Gibson was named Fireman of the Year, and Robbi Smith was runner-up. Andrew

Tickle received the EMT of the Year award, and Chris Hough was runner-up. Lee Eastburn received a pin for 35 years of service, and Justin Conner received his 15 year pin. Fire Chief Eric Nelson said a tally of who makes meetings and calls is kept during the year, and the

body of members vote on award winners. In 2016, the department made 37 ambulance calls and 17 fire and rescue calls. Three personnel - Andrew and April Tickle and Greg Tickle attended the Nebraska State Fire School. EMTs took special trainings as well. There are a total of

29 members serving the community. Before the awards ceremony, Arnold Chamber and community members served department members a meal to show their appreciation. "It was a great meal - it was awesome," said Nelson.



Duane Gibson (pictured right) received the Fireman of the Year award for 2016 from Fire Chief Eric Nelson. Runner-up was Robbi Smith (not pictured). (Courtesy Photo)



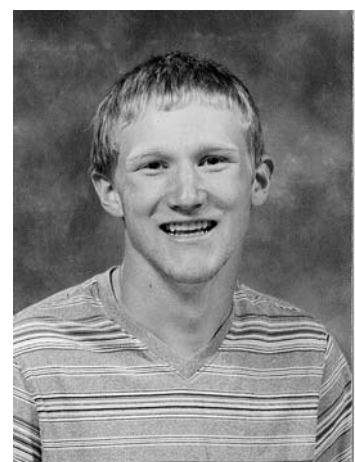
EMT Captain Tammy Weinman presented Andrew Tickle (pictured right) the EMT Person of the Year award for 2016. Chris Hough (pictured left) was runner-up. (Courtesy photo)

Cade Connell Selected as Boys State Representative

American Legion Post #130 is pleased to announce that they have selected Cade Connell, son of Casey and Leta Connell, as Arnold's representative to Boys' State. Cade will join nearly 400 other high school juniors from across Nebraska, June 4-10, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln downtown campus. The annual citizenship program, sponsored by the Nebraska American Legion, is designed to provide youths with a better understanding of how city, county and state governments operate.

Cade is 17 years old and a junior at Arnold Public Schools. He has been involved in several clubs, extra curricular activities, organizations and volunteer programs. Those activities include football (3 years), basketball (3 years), track (3 years), One-Act (1 year), Quiz Bowl (1 year), National Honor Society (2 years), Tail Twisters 4-H Club (4 years), SHGP (3 years) and Team Captain for the South Loup Basketball (2 years). He has volunteered at Rodeo Bible Camp, Basketball Bible Camp and SORC. He is a member of the boys high school Bible study group.

American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State is set up as a functional "51st state"



Cade Connell

and each boy learns how government subdivisions operate by actually doing the job. Participants will campaign for offices, hold elections, take part in band and chorus, compete in athletics and be involved in other varied activities as part of the citizenship training program. They will set up their own state government and draft bills.

Special lectures and addresses will be delivered by experienced public officials and professional leaders throughout Nebraska. Invitations have been sent to the Governor and Secretary of State offices for special appearances at this year's program. National acclaimed motivational speakers are also scheduled to address the entire group.