

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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With other players ready in the field, volunteer coach Joe Cool pitches to a player during last Monday night's coach pitch game at Arnold's Old Mill Park. The program is expected to grow in the future. (Fallon Gibson photo)

Arnold Little League Program Keeps Growing

Year two of starting the Arnold Little League program has again exceeded expectations.

"A lot of the same kids that participated last year were eager to start again this year," said organizer Duane Gibson. "And since we had quite a few that had aged out of t-ball, we decided to add in coach pitch this year. We're hoping in the years to come that we can keep adding programs as the kids get older so that they can keep playing. There is even some

talk of starting up a co-ed softball league for the adults."

T-ball ended up with four teams of eight kids, for a total of 32 kids. Coach pitch ended up with two teams of 11, which brought the grand total of kids out to play ball at an impressive 54. Another bleacher was brought in this year, and both bleachers were full of spectators on June 12, as family, friends and neighbors turned out to watch the kids. Concessions of hotdogs and hamburgers, prepared by the organizers

have went over big to help continue to raise money for the program's needs.

"As always, we are so very thankful for our local businesses that have been so completely supportive. This year we decided to offer businesses a chance to donate money for equipment or sponsor a team," said Shavonne Schacher.

Businesses and people that donated follow: Anonymous, Forrester's Dodge City, Keane's Suzy's Pizza, Arnold Insurance,

Flowers by Shavonne, Darren and Tammy Weinman and Weinman Farms, Bailey Transportation, Reed's Food Center, Homegrown Kids Daycare, Pinnacle Bank, the Arnold Fire Department and Frito Lay in Gothenburg.

The organizers also want to extend a big thank you to all of the many volunteers who make this program possible, whether they coached or helped during community clean-up to get the field ready.

There's one more night of ball scheduled on Monday, June 26, starting at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and watch the kids play.

If anyone is interested in getting on the list to help out for next year or would like some more information on the coed softball league, get a hold of Fallon Gibson (308) 636-8037 or Shavonne Schacher (308) 636-6017.

Village Board Hears AEDC Update, Approves New Business Loan

The village board was given an update by AEDC Director Cheryl Carson and considered several items at their June 12 meeting held at the community center.

Carson said Great Plains Communications is determining the connection and service requirements for set up of live cams for community events. Once completed, the project will move forward.

She reported on the television show "PURE Nebraska's" visit to Arnold and Berni Crow's one-room schoolhouse. She said the producers are interested in coming back to spend an entire day touring Arnold and points of interest. As soon as Carson is notified of the airing date for the Center School story, she will pass that on to the public.

Arnold now has a 6 ft. tall by 3 ft. wide section panel in the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Barn at Broken Bow to promote the community. Carson has also placed a 4 ft. x 3 ft. banner there, as well as take-

away information such as brochures and flyers promoting Arnold and listing upcoming events. A small book is also provided for travelers which shows some of Arnold's history in keeping with Nebraska celebrating 150 years.

Carson also reported that the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring NE Drive 150 to encourage travelers to explore 150 miles of Custer County and its small communities. This event starts on July 6 and ends on August 21. More information on this event and how to participate will be in the next issue of The Sentinel.

Carson continues to attend regular monthly meetings, updates the Arnold website and Facebook pages, Visit Nebraska site, and advertises events through radio, T.V. and print ads.

She reported that upcoming events include Vacation Bible School starting on June 26 and a movie called "Mom's Night Out" on June 28, which will benefit the Rialto Theatre. The

movie will be sponsored by Last Call Ministries.

Comments from the Floor

Becky Dailey attended the meeting and requested that the board consider a "family night" for swimming for the parents who work during the day. The board said that the pool is available in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays for families to swim.

LOAN APPROVED

At the request of the Arnold Economic Development Corporation, board members approved a \$10,500.00 loan and \$2,000.00 grant from the economic development fund for the Arnold Exchange. Carson said the loan and grant will be used to complete signage for the business.

Use of Mezzanine

Dusty Stutzman asked if the mezzanine area in the community center could be used for South Loup youth wrestling practice one or two nights a week. Up to 38 kids are involved, and the program keeps growing each year. Youth

wrestling is unaffiliated with the schools, and the kids are required to carry their own insurance. Stutzman said the wrestlers are using Callaway's community center, and there have been no problems. He plans to order new light weight mats, and no weights will be used.

Since the mezzanine has been deemed structurally sound, board members voted to allow the organization to use the area at no charge each Tuesday night, December through April, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Approval was also given for the wrestlers to use the area a second night of practice if Callaway's community center is not available.

Water Tower Maintenance

Bids were scheduled to be opened at the May meeting for re-painting the water tower as it is now - white with red lettering. At a resident's request, the village tabled the bid process and looked into proposals of painting the tower different colors. Board members decided to reject all bids received and have companies resubmit bids with the current colors and new colors.

Licensed Day Care Swim Pass

The board considered granting a licensed daycare pass for the pool. The pass would be for employees of the licensed daycare only and be good Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clerk Patricia Lamberty said the pass would only be good when the employees are with the daycare kids. The board voted to set the rate for the pass at \$90.00.

In other business, the board:

- Were informed that there will be a Municipal Workshop Day on June 22 hosted by Arnold Insurance Agency. Clerk Patricia Lamberty has signed up.

- After hearing a comparison of what other municipalities pay for audit fees, voted to accept the engagement letter from Dana F. Cole & Company out of Grand Island to audit the financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2017, at a cost of \$5,265.00 plus an estimated additional expense of \$700.00.

- Heard that four applications have been received for the seasonal help position. With a backlog of work to do, board members decided to hire two seasonal employees while they

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Learning An Important Skill

Red Cross swimming lessons instructor Shavonne Schacher talks to the level 1 kids about water safety while, pool manager Grace Magill (far left) and lifeguard Madison Reed (rear) wait for the kids to be divided up to give lessons last Wednesday morning at the Arnold pool. Seventy-two kids signed up for the first week of public swimming lessons, coming from not only Arnold, but the towns of Gandy, Dunning, Merna, Anselmo and Callaway. This year a toddler/infant class was offered to get the little ones used to the water. Schacher said that there were 20-30 kids that signed up for private lessons. Due to camps and family vacations, more kids are expected the second week. (Fallon Gibson photo)