

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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VOLUME 101, NUMBER 12



New kindergarten teacher Traci Kennedy and her class (sitting, l-r) Dagen Fletcher, Addison Dalrymple, Emmanuel Oberg, Braxton Green, Ethan Jarmin; (back, standing) Avery Corbin and Paisley Witthuhn; (middle, standing) Morgan Wera, Jaxsen Schacher, Paityn Dailey, Berklee Preston, Lane Long, Carlee Smith, Te'Andre Oberg. Not pictured: Parker Strasburg.

Village Budget Hearing Set for Sept. 11

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees will hold a budget hearing on Monday, September 11, at 7:15 p.m. The proposed budget is \$2,301,517 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Approximately 22 percent of the budgeted expenditures (\$500,000) are for electricity purchases from Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and Western Area Power Administration.

The largest capital improvement budgeted for is \$375,000.00 for electrical upgrades. This includes Phase 4 of the Voltage Conversion & Line Rebuild Project. Phase 1 was completed in fiscal year 2012-2015. Phase 2 was completed in fiscal year 2014-2015. Phase 3 was completed in fiscal year 2016-2017.

Other capital improvements include:

- \$50,000.00 for Street Improvements
- \$30,000.00 for CIPP Liner (sewer system) - 600 block of N. Haskell
- \$35,000.00 to install 6" water main on 500 and 600 block of N. Haskell.
- \$20,000.00 park improvements (contingent upon donations).
- \$15,000.00 generator project at the community center (Village will be reimbursed 75 percent of the Cost of the Project from FEMA).

Capital Outlay Expenditures include: \$10,000.00 for dumpsters, \$15,000.00 for lawn mower; \$15,000.00 for Bobcat compact track loader; \$5,000.00 for Bobcat attachment - 84" angle broom; \$3,000 air compressor.

Some of the other expenditures include: \$60,500.00 for professional fees (attorney/auditor/engineer); \$60,000.00 for insurance; \$35,000.00 for wastewater plant expense; \$28,000.00 for painting the exterior of the water tower; \$16,500.00 for tipping fees at Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency; \$ 7,500.00 for crack sealant of streets.

In addition, \$100,000 was budgeted to spend from the Edna B Peterson Estate, contingent upon receiving the money. A total of \$109,930.00 has been budgeted for community improvement. This money comes from the 1 percent local sales & use tax. The Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) makes recommendations to the board of trustees on how this money is used.

A special hearing to set the final tax request will be held on September 11 at 7:15 p.m. The proposed 2016-2017 property tax request is \$95,950.00. The proposed 2017 tax rate would be .399202. The prior year property tax request was \$83,730.00 (tax rate .399934). The village may levy a maximum of forty-five cents per 100 dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy. According to Nebraska Revised State Statutes the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization unless the governing body passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request at a different amount. A special hearing must be conducted to hear comments regarding the property tax request. Property taxes are split between the General and Street Departments. The General includes Parks, Swimming Pool, Community Center and General Government.

Sports Coverage in Next Week's Issue

Due to the early deadline for the Labor Day holiday, coverage of South Loup Bobcat activities held after August 31 will be in the September 14 issue. This includes the September 1 football game against Ainsworth and the August 31 varsity volleyball game against Mullen.

Enrollment Up at Arnold Schools

The numbers keep climbing at Arnold Public Schools, with 165 students enrolled in Grades K-12. That is up from 157 students during the 2016-2017 school year, and 143 the previous year to that. There are 77 students in Grades K-5 and 88 in Grades 6-12.

The school district's annual census report shows there are 306 total children in the district, compared to 295 in 2016, 275 in 2015, and 255 in 2014. The 2017 figure is the highest in a decade.

Following are total numbers from the 2017 census:

AGE 5-20

AGE 5

Girls.....	7
Boys.....	11
Total.....	18

AGE 6

Girls.....	9
Boys.....	9
Total.....	18

AGE 7

Girls.....	9
Boys.....	8
Total.....	17

AGE 8

Girls.....	12
Boys.....	9
Total.....	21

AGE 9

Girls.....	6
Boys.....	5
Total.....	11

AGE 10

Girls.....	5
Boys.....	6
Total.....	11

AGE 11

Girls.....	12
Boys.....	13
Total.....	25

AGE 12

Girls.....	4
Boys.....	5
Total.....	9

AGE 13

Girls.....	7
Boys.....	8
Total.....	15

AGE 14

Girls.....	11
Boys.....	6
Total.....	17

AGE 15

Girls.....	11
Boys.....	11
Total.....	22

AGE 16

Girls.....	4
Boys.....	11
Total.....	15

AGE 17

Girls.....	5
Boys.....	1
Total.....	6

AGE 18

Girls.....	6
Boys.....	5
Total.....	11

Continued on page 2.

APS Ranked #11 in Best School Districts

Arnold Public Schools has been ranked one of the best school districts in the state by Niche, a website that produces comprehensive rankings, report cards and profiles for every K-12 school, college and neighborhood in the U.S.

APS was ranked #11 in the category of Best School Districts in Nebraska out of the 237 districts in the state, and #20 in the category of Districts with the Best Teachers in Nebraska.

In academics, APS is listed as having a 92 percent reading proficiency and an 87 percent proficiency in math.

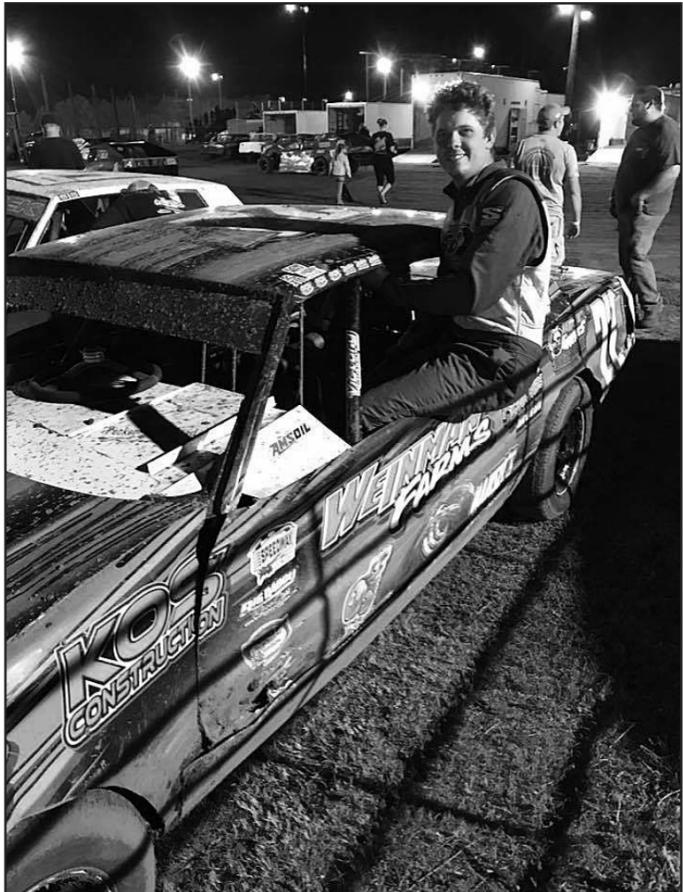
The student-teacher ratio is 7:1, compared to the national average of 16:1.

New Kindergarten Teacher Looks Forward to School Year

Mrs. Traci Kennedy is Arnold's newest teacher, and just three weeks in, she said it is shaping up to be a good year. She describes her 15 energetic kindergartners as a "good group of kids."

Mrs. Kennedy graduated from Callaway High School, where she participated in volleyball, basketball, track and one-acts. After graduating from Chadron State, she taught three years of kindergarten at North Platte St. Pat's and two years at Maywood Public Schools. She and husband Bryson have one daughter, Ruby.

Weinman Defends Track Championship Title



"I appreciate the sponsors, pit crew and fans for helping make this year a success and look forward to next years race season," said Brady, pictured above with his race car. (Tammy Weinman photo)

Weinman was still the leader in points, by 15, going into the last feature. He started poll position and ended up winning the race. Weinman ended the season with 333 points and another Hobby Stock Points Championship.

Sponsors for this year were Touch of Tranquility, A-1 Auto Repair, Amsoil, Loup Valley Construction, Mills Hardware, Suzy's Pizza, Arnold Irrigation, E.J.'s Outdoor Sports, First State Insurance, JIH Feeders, Halstead Trucking, Country Partners, Weinman Farms, Channel Seed, Blowers Farms/Dyna-Gro Seed, Yellow Rose, Reliable Ag Services, KOS Construction, The Body Shop, Yoli, the Dancer family, OutLaw Racing Products and Blowers Small Engine Repair.

Brady's pit crew members were Drew Bowers, Charlie Blowers, Austin Snyder, Josh Flint, Merritt Eastman, John Brosius, Terrance Schacher and Wayne Bierman. The pit crew puts in many hours helping prep the race car every week and help at the race track to change gears, fuel the car, change tires and repair the race car.

"These people make it possible to race each week," said Weinman.

Weinman also raced in Lexington, Nebraska, this year and has plans to race in Hays, Kansas, this October for Fall Nationals.

Lincoln County Raceway held a double feature night on Saturday, August 26, which included their championship feature race. In the first feature, Weinman started out

fourth row outside and got a flat tire part way through the race, which made him spin off the track and caused a radiator hose to come off. He was unable to finish the feature.