

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

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Hitting That Monday Deadline!

Talented APS Students Take on Challenge of Covering Sports for *The Sentinel*

Since the winter sports season began, three talented freshmen girls in the APS journalism class have enthusiastically taken on the challenge of covering games and wrestling meets for *The Arnold Sentinel*, and they are hitting it out of the ballpark.

"When you look back through the *Sentinel* archives in decades past, either the coaches reported on the games or they delegated it to students or student athletes. Their reports were a good read," said *Sentinel* Editor Janet Larreau. "Things change. Now, with one exception, we receive stats and sometimes comments. Last season, Leta Connell did a great job of gathering comments and stats for us, but with her job as a para at APS, we knew time was short for her, too. As the number of games have increased exponentially, I have been saying for years that we needed a 'Bob Jensen' - a 1976 A.H.S. graduate who entertained readers with his sports write-ups while in school and later made a career in journalism, most notably launching *Huskerland Prep Report* in 1990. We needed 'voice.' When this group of girls began writing for the school newsletter this year, I saw the talent, and I knew they had the drive.



Journalism teacher Nicole Badgley (center) and freshmen girls (from left) Jadeyn Bubak, Kylee Lehmkuhler and Landyn Cole edit a sports story before it is sent off to *The Sentinel* for publication. (Courtesy photo)

I pitched the idea to the girls and their journalism teacher Nicole Badgley. They were immediately on board."

Mrs. Badgley said she first learned to love journalism when she was in high school in Omaha. She wrote for her school paper for a year and then graduated.

"In college I enjoyed journalism and the advertising side of

it so much that I decided to minor in journalism, along with my English degree," she said. "I did some short stints working for the *Kearney Hub* in college, mostly free-lance stuff. I wrote for the *Custer County Chief* very briefly as a free-lancer over 25 years ago, and I have been teaching some form of journalism since 1995. I taught an exploratory journal-

ism class in Broken Bow for 8th graders, and then began teaching journalism in Arnold about my third year, and have been doing it ever since. I really like watching the students find their voice. When they realize that they are writing for a real audience (the school newsletter audience of parents, grandparents and the local readers) they seem to put more work into it.

They often get more creative, and they find the types of writing they really enjoy. They also realize what they are not good at when it comes to writing, and they find ways to overcome that deficit with help from other students within the journalism staff."

Mrs. Badgley said she thinks this group of students, who are now in journalism, are strong writers. They were when asked to join the *Sentinel* writing staff; however, now they are even stronger. She said they have quite the process that they go through before the Monday noon deadline. Each comes to class with most of an article written, and then they trade laptops to read and revise for each other. They help each other add information to the article, look up stats and clarify information, put their articles up on the projector in the front of the room and read it aloud and edit as they go. They are all three working together at the same time, with Mrs. Badgley adding a few things in as they go. They then go through and edit the articles for errors, and they realize what they might be missing and what they need to go find out before submission by the Monday noon deadline.

"As with every student who has been in one of my journalism classes, I am hoping that they will gain experience writing," she said. "This is a different kind of writing than what they are used to. They are used to telling stories for assignments; they are used to doing research for major papers; and they are used to writing for their own personal writing. So when they write for a real audience things change. I think they enjoy the challenge. They have to write quickly with games from the weekend to meet these noon deadlines. They enjoy trying to find new ways to say things. Especially with sports writing, it is easy to sound repetitive because there are at least two games a week. They seem to enjoy working on word choice and phrasing to keep things interesting for the readers.

Jadeyn Bubak

Jadeyn, who covers girls basketball, said she really enjoys writing creatively, and writing for both the *Sentinel* and the newsletter has allowed her to experiment with different

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South Loup Watershed Plan Accepted, Funding Available for Practices

Both the Environmental Protection Agency and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality have accepted the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's Watershed Management Plan for the South Loup River Basin. NRD Assistant Manager Tylr Naprstek said the district can now secure funding for conservation practices within the watershed. A full copy of the plan with all appendices is available on the LLNRD website, www.llnrd.org.

The South Loup River Watershed covers over 1 million acres and is devoted to agricultural

uses including farming, grazing and feeding operations. It includes 6 communities, 2 community lakes and multiple recreational uses. There are over 230 stream miles in the basin.

Water quality issues are a concern for both groundwater nitrate levels and in-stream e Coli bacteria levels. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has also labeled several locations on the South Loup River as impaired. Naprstek said that groundwater level declines in the basin have not made a full recovery following

the drought of 2012.

Naprstek said any conservation program implemented for the watershed will be strictly voluntary and funding may be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by the NRCS. He said applications in the watershed will receive bonus points. Naprstek said applications not funded through EQIP might qualify for other funding and asked that those not funded contact the NRD.

Some of the practices that can be financed include: Increased No-Till, Fertilizer and Nutrient

Management Practices (Soil moisture sensors, Soil/Water sampling, Manure Application Sampling, Corn Stalk Sampling, etc.), Buffer Strips and Grassed Waterways, and Cover Crops.

For those living in the watershed, this program could also pay for septic system inspection and upgrades as well as well decommissioning. There is also some funding set aside for Livestock Feeding Operation Drainage Management.

For more information, contact Naprstek at (308) 728-3221



At Work and At Play

(Above) Andrew Tickle blows a path through a big drift of snow on the east side of Mills Hardware early Monday morning after the season's first blizzard moved through the area starting Sunday night. It's estimated that over a foot of the heavy wet stuff fell overnight, driven into drifts by high winds. With school cancelled, kids had their very first "snow day," and Braxton Green (left) wasted no time jumping into a drift outside of his home. Village crews, businesses and residents had their heavy snow removal equipment and snow scoops out most of the day, with neighbor helping neighbor to dig out. Arnold was fortunate to not lose power, as power outages were reported in other surrounding areas. Total snowfall amounts were not available by press time. (Courtesy photos)



Calling All Babies of 2017

The Arnold Sentinel will be featuring the babies of 2017 in an upcoming issue. The feature is open to all of our readers, and everyone is encouraged to submit a photo and information about the baby, including the baby's name, date of birth and the names of his or her parents and grandparents.

Submissions can be emailed to: arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line of "2017 baby," mailed to: PO Box 136, Arnold, NE 69120, or dropped off at the office.

The deadline for submissions has been moved to Wednesday, January 31.

Please spread the word if you know of a baby born in 2017!

Letters Sought for Alumni News

It may seem early, but plans are underway for publication of the 2018 A.H.S. Alumni News. Letters are encouraged from all graduates - especially the honored classes.

Letters can be emailed to: arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line "Alumni News," or mailed to Arnold Alumni Association, PO Box 21, Arnold NE 69120. The deadline for letters will be no later than March 15.

More information about plans for the annual reunion will be in an upcoming issue.