

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Photo/Debbie Connelly

(On stage) Kristi Dvorak films, while Cheryl Carson directs a large group of Arnold supporters in the school's gymnasium last Friday morning as they shout, "Growing great things!" The video being shot was the last piece needed to apply for a chance at HGTV's *Home Town Takeover*, where Erin and Ben Napier, hosts of the popular HGTV series *Home Town*, choose an entire municipality to renovate.

It's Worth a Shot

AEDC applies for chance to have HGTV renovate the town

By Janet Larreau

There's never been anything like it happen at the school. Last Friday morning, the kids, staff, and community members were asked to gather in the middle of the gymnasium's floor. While Arnold Economic Development Director Cheryl Carson directed the cheering, Kristi Dvorak filmed the group. Principal Joel Morgan, Heather Hagler and Nicole Badgley yelled, "Welcome to Arnold! We're..." and in their loudest voices, the group responded with, "Growing Great Things!" It was all part of an application process that will hopefully

bring HGTV to our town. Carson said she spotted the contest and chance to enter late one night on Facebook. The HGTV network was announcing an upcoming spinoff of its hit series *Home Town*, in which hosts Erin and Ben Napier will spearhead the renovation of an entire municipality, from single-family homes to public parks and more. Fans were invited to nominate their burg to be the one featured on *Home Town Takeover* on HomeTownTakeover.com. Viewers interested in nominating their own hometowns for an overhaul needed to be aware of only one major criteria: the towns up for consideration were required to have a

population of 40,000 or less. Submissions required a video tour of the village itself, with a focus on the buildings and areas that might need the most sprucing up, as well as stories from locals and photos that pointed to what's special about that particular area. There were only a few days left to enter, so Carson contacted Kristi Dvorak, whose skill sets would be needed to take all of the ideas and put them in a video format. It wasn't an easy application process. Requirements included a biography and information about the community, submitting only five photos and putting together the 8-10 minute video.

Carson said that in the application and video, they focused on municipality facelifts on sidewalks, awnings and buildings. The old Archie's Cafe was included. "We looked collectively at the business district, not just one street. These guys love nostalgia. The emphasis is on the beauty of what's already there," said Carson. In a press release, Erin Napier said, "This the big one. HGTV has never, ever taken on a whole town-renovation-and-restoration project." Fans of the Napiers have watched the married couple completely transform their own home base of Laurel, Mississippi, one residence at a time.

"Renovating one house at a time is an awesome experience, but the chance to support an entire town, where we can help bring a community back to life and enhance the lives of the people who live and work there, is something we've always wanted to try," Ben Napier said in a statement. The series will span six episodes. As the saying goes, "You can't win if you don't enter." Carson said that both she and Kristi felt that it was worth it all. They hit the entry deadline of February 4 and will now wait for the results. "It's open to so many communities, so we're going up against who knows what," she said.

Winners Announced in 11th Annual School Spelling Bee



Photo/Julie Mohr

Qualifiers for the Custer County Spelling Bee line up after the local Bee held on January 22: (from left) Riata Remund, Callan Witthuhn, Josie Christensen, Elijah Cool, Will Moninger, Gracie Neth, Harmony Borah, Serenity Borah and Ella Cool. Will and Elijah hold their certificates for placing 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the local Bee.

By Colbi Smith
APS Sophomore

On Wednesday, January 22nd, 21 students from grades 3-8 gathered in the school gym to compete for the title of school spelling bee champion. In order to qualify for the bee, students had to place in the top three in their class spelling bee. The students who qualified for

the bee were as follows: Delanie Weinman, Serenity Borah, Jade Bierman, Ella Cool, Hayden Myers, Elijah Cool, Brenden Streit, Riata Remund, Gracie Neth, Paxton Bierman, William Moninger, Jamison Lamphear, Charli Vickers, Grace Bierman, Rae Hagler, Ethan Furne, Josie Christensen, Harmony Borah, Hagen Mikkelsen, Austin Davenport,

and Callan Witthuhn. To start off the bee, all the spellers went up to the microphone and spelled their name. After this practice round, the real action started. After the first two rounds of competition, 14 of the original 21 competitors remained. The third round was a super tight round, with only 1 of the 14 competitors being eliminated in this

round. During this round, Josie Christensen saved herself from elimination after realizing she was about to misspell the word "staggered." Josie restarted spelling the word and spelled it correctly. Jade Bierman also saved herself during this round. Jade's word was "disinfectant" and she made the smart play of catching her mistake and starting over, allowing

her to spell the word correctly. Tough competition continued for 8 rounds as the competition was narrowed down to two competitors; William Moninger and Elijah Cool. The two spellers then went into the championship round. Elijah went first but unfortunately misspelled the word "tarry." This meant that if Will spelled his word right, he would win the bee. Will got the word "opportunity," and he stepped up to the microphone and spelled it correctly. Will Moninger placed 1st, Elijah Cool placed 2nd, Serenity Borah, Josie Christensen, and Gracie Neth all tied for 3rd place, and Riata Remund and Harmony Borah tied for 4th place. The Custer County Spelling Bee is scheduled for February 12 at 9:00 a.m., in Ansley, where these students, in addition to Callan Witthuhn and Ella Cool, will compete.

Pancake Feed Is Thursday

Arnold Rotary will host its annual pancake feed at the community center on Thursday, February 6. Serving will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. A free-will donation will be taken, with proceeds going to community projects.

Weather Observer Sought for Arnold

The National Weather Service in North Platte is currently seeking someone to serve as a volunteer cooperative weather observer for the Arnold area. If you are interested, please call NWS at 308-532-0921.