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South Loup River Valley

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

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The Arnold Sentinel

The Year in Review

WEATHER:

January saw a polar vortex where temperatures dipped to 14 below zero.

Cold weather marked the beginning of calving in February.

Several storms moved through the area in June, damaging many corn fields from hail and strong winds and bringing a record-amount of rainfall.

Along with rain, hail storms continued into July, devastating farmers' crops over a wide area.

Harvest was underway with silage cutting in September. Times have changed with new silage cutters taking 10 rows at a time and using an inoculant system.

Six inches of snow fell the day after Christmas in the season's first significant winter storm.

Total moisture for 2014 was 25.71 inches, a significant improvement over 2013's 16.46 inches and 2012's 8.13 inches. 2011 had 19.56 inches and 2010 had 28.66 inches. Breakdown by month was January - 0, compared to 2013's .13; February - .42, compared to 2013's .52; March - 2.01, compared to 2013's .37; April - 1.24, compared to 2013's 2.04; May - 1.79, compared to 2013's 3.83; June - 9.85, compared to 2013's 4.24; July - 1.84, compared to 2013's .99; August - 5.58, compared to 2013's 2.15; September - 1.54, compared to 2013's .50; October - .69, compared to 2013's 1.26; November - 0, compared to 2013's .40; December - .75, compared to 2013's .03.

FEATURE STORIES:

Arnold resident Frances Scott told her story as a Rosie the Riveter during WWII.

The family of 1st Lt. Donald K. Schwab traveled to Washington DC, where he posthumously received a Medal of Honor in March.

Four Arnold Alums, Norvin Pearce, Robert Leach, Dwaine Carlson and Ted Anderson, were Nebraska veterans who were a part of the single largest Honor Flight to Washington DC, in April.

Red Cedar met its match in this feature story on the new mechanical method of mulching the invasive tree by Loup Valley Construction's Scott McDowell.

PEOPLE:

AHS grad Samantha Peterson was back in Arnold in January with her new self-published novel *Dynam*, offering a book signing at Farmhouse Antiques.

Arnold 14-year-old Avery Atkins was also featured in January with a buffalo that she took with a .308 rifle over



Christmas break on the Ted Turner ranch.

In May, Arnold graduate Jessica Preston was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach internationally in 2015.

A descendant of Arnold's founder, Cindy Gardiner of Tucson and great-granddaughter of R. E. Allen, said her visit to Arnold was beyond her wildest dreams. She came to the town in June.

Awards were established in memory of 4-H supporters - the Jack Collier Grand Champion Award and Rod Watson Working Ranch Horse awards.

Doris Lynch Bowers was the winning submission in *GLOBE* magazine's contest "Gotta Get *GLOBE*," bringing publicity to Arnold at age 94.

Darlene Rimpley retired as Finch Memorial Library director in September.

Joe Bob Atkins was elected President of the Board of Directors of Professional Insurance Agents NE IA.

Morgan Eggleston was named rodeo queen at the 2014 Logan County Rodeo.

Local trucker Dusty Mills experienced a direct lightning strike while rolling down the road in late August.

AHS grad Edward Walker stopped in Arnold in August pulling an "X-Factor" sled. He and his unique job were featured.

Rich Hornung's big black bear with cub was creating quite a buzz in town at the beginning of October.

Arnold resident Doris Shields Lynch Bowers was honored by the National Sod House Society.

An Arnold resident isn't the oldest Nebraskan, but she is close. Miriam Brower celebrated her 108th birthday on November 11.

After 29 years, Jane Hornung stepped away from the Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors.

RIALTO THEATRE:

In January, "Frozen" set a new weekend record - 265 attendees. Please take a seat...fundrais-

ing began for new seats at the Rialto Theatre in October and installation of the seats took place in December.

ARNOLD PUBLIC SCHOOL:

Kind deeds did not go unnoticed at the school with kids receiving prizes in the "Spirit of the Season" annual event.

Arnold principal Dawn Lewis got "slimed" after students reached the food pantry goal of raising \$400.00.

The APS Teammates mentoring program also grew during the year with more than 30 adult mentors.

Toni Oberg and Leighton Bubak were outstanding artists at the LVC Art Show.

Leah Smith was featured for entering seven pieces of artwork and receiving seven awards over the last four years - one Gold Medal, four Silver medals and two Honorable Mentions from the Scholastic

Art and Writing awards.

Kylee Lehmkuhler and Devin Peterson represented Arnold at the "State Capitol Youth Art Month celebration."

Boys' and Girls' State representatives were announced in April - Trevor Halstead and Racheal Smith.

The Junior/Senior Prom was held in April with the theme of "Candyland."

Elementary students presented "Snow White" in their dinner theater presentation in April. There was a cast of 43 and over 240 were served.

Teachers were told, "They Rock!" during May in a week-long celebration sponsored by the newly formed parent-teacher association.

Claire Beshaler was selected for the Legion's Junior Law Cadet Program in June.

SHGP continued to stay busy once again during the summer, as several interns completed many sign projects including a new emergency sign at Callaway District Hospital.

School was back in session in August and students welcomed Kevin and Jamie Neth as the fifth and third grade teachers, respectively.

You've been junior bombed... "Prom Bombs" made their rounds during the month of October to Arnold residents' yards.

Arnold School District proved to be one of the best in the state, when results of testing were released in October.

Veterans were honored with a school-wide program on Vet-

eran's Day.

In November, APS's new website went live.

Also in November, the new Arnold Parent Teacher Association was featured for helping teachers find resources and providing help in the classroom.

Principal Dawn Lewis accepted the new Callaway and Arnold Superintendent position in December.

Also in December, students collected over 800 unperishable food items for the local food pantry.

Students and parents celebrated in December for Arnold's high Nebraska State Accountability NeSA standardized test results. Arnold placed #2 in Reading and #2 in Elementary Writing in the state.

ALUMNI CELEBRATION:

The 2014 Arnold Alumni banquet and program featured co-emcees Merle Bierman and Samantha Peterson. Over 315 people attended the celebration. Marjorie Blixt Cool was recognized as an 80-year honored graduate.

CHAMBER:

Chamber officers were announced in January. April Tickle, president; Becky Dailey, vice president; Kendra Veirs/Tammy Weinman, secretary; Patty Lamberty, treasurer. Kegs & Corks drew a steady crowd this year in February. The event was co-sponsored by the Arnold Golf Association.

The Arnold Alumni Team had

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Gifts for the Kids

The Christmas holiday was a little brighter this year for 25 area children, when they received presents donated by local residents. The program was the idea of Lori Stutzman and Chyrel Cerny, who placed ornaments on Christmas trees located at Pinnacle Bank, Mills Hardware, Farmhouse Antiques and Kreative Edge. Residents could choose either a boy or a girl and an age group, and then place the wrapped gift under the tree. The gifts were collected just in time to be delivered before Christmas Eve. "A thank you goes out to anyone who made delivering these presents to local kids possible," said Lori. If anyone is interested in helping with the program next year, contact Lori or Chyrel. There will be a meeting shortly after the first of the year. Lori said they hope to see the program grow to include entire families and individual adults as well. (Courtesy photo)

USDA to Gauge Farmland Ownership and Farm Economics

LINCOLN, NE - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin surveying farmland owners to measure financial impacts and challenges of land ownership. Landowners will begin receiving forms for the survey, called Tenure, Ownership and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL), by the end of December.

"The recent Census of Agriculture counted more than 19.9 million acres of land that were rented or leased in Nebraska, but it has been more than a decade since we spoke to landowners themselves," said Dean Groskurth, Northern Plains Regional Director. "I hope all who receive TOTAL surveys will respond to help update landownership information. The data will ensure that all decisions impacting Nebraska farmland is based on accurate information that comes directly from the source."

TOTAL is a part of the Census of Agriculture program, which means response to this survey is mandatory. The TOTAL survey program will collect data from both farm operators and landlords who are not farm operators to create a complete picture of farm costs, land ownership, demographics about farm operators and land-

lords and improvements made to farmland and buildings, among other characteristics. More than 80,000 farmland owners and producers across the United States will receive TOTAL forms, including 3,100 in Nebraska.

"This survey is lengthy and we realize some producers and landowners may have questions or need clarification," explained Groskurth. "In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those producers and landowners who have not yet responded to answer any questions they may have and help them fill out their questionnaires."

In addition to accurate data, NASS is strongly committed to confidentiality. Information provided by respondents is confidential by law. The agency safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

NASS will publish results of the TOTAL survey in its Quick Stats database in August 2015. Quick Stats is available online at quickstats.nass.usda.gov. NASS will also publish the economic data gathered in the annual Farm Production Expenditures report on August 4, 2015. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.



Stars Added to Memory Tree

Children who have passed away are remembered each Christmas season by placing stars on a 12-foot tree that is placed in the entryway of the Arnold Community Center. Barb Varney, who is the caretaker of the tree, said three stars were added this year, making 90-plus that shine in remembrance. If you would like a star for your child that has passed away, please contact Barb. (Janet Larreau photo)