

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Wrapping up 2019

Editor's note: This week we continue the tradition of wrapping up the year by looking back at who and what made the news. Once again, the community of Arnold didn't disappoint, providing plenty of news in its quest to continue to be an active and progressive community. Many achievements and milestones were reported on in these 52 issues. Along with the good, came the bad, with farmers and ranchers struggling through a hard winter, flooding, and the resulting difficult planting and harvesting seasons.

As we look forward to 2020, our wish is for continued growth and prosperity in the community, and a much easier and abundant year for our farmers and ranchers.

JANUARY

Long-time bank employee, Diane Conner, was honored at a retirement party. She served as a teller for 40 years.

A mystery man was seen skiing through the streets of Arnold as winds howled at 40 m.p.h. and several inches of snow drifting over a solid sheet of ice.

Marvin Neth retired as CEO of Callaway District Hospital. Oconto native, Brett Eggleston took over as the new CEO.

The Arnold High School senior class was participating in CAPABLE: Beyond the classroom internships.

Down Under Sports announced that Cooper Taylor had been invited to represent Nebraska on the 2019 football team in Queensland, Australia.

Arnold Public Schools hosted Darrel Drape, a historical re-enactor, playing Peter Sarpy.

The Arnold School District received an overall AQUESTT classification of "Great".

Josie Christensen won Arnold's National Geographic GeoBee.

Cloudfire Services owners Adam and Melani Wonch pur-



Photo/Renee Bubak

Crazy Weather

The year 2019 will be remembered for its crazy weather, with the most notable event being the March "bomb cyclone," causing flooding of historic proportions in the state of Nebraska. The snow, rains and unstable weather continued into spring and summer months. This December our area experienced another weather-related event with a large mudslide on "King Hill", a notable landmark northwest of Arnold on the Watkins Ranch. The mudslide occurred sometime during the evening hours of December 6, estimated to measure about 150' wide x 200' vertical. Longtime resident Bill Watkins had never seen anything like this in his lifetime. "I have seen a small one before, but nothing of this magnitude. Between the hard winter, snows and rains, I believe the weather during the last year caused it," he said. The high elevation hill can clearly be seen from the highway just west of Arnold - almost nine miles away.

chased a building on main street.

FEBRUARY

Chamber reorganized. New officers elected were: Sal Hilderbrant, president; Brandi Corbin, vice-president; and Margie McDowell, secretary/treasurer.

Arnold senior, Lydia Connell,

was accepted into the RHOP program at Chadron State College.

Bob Jensen was inducted into the Eight Man Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

A stuck vehicle on a minimum maintenance road south of Arnold turned into a drug bust for three individuals in a

vehicle from California.

MJK, CPA PC purchased a building in Arnold.

The Arnold and Callaway schools accepted the resignation of shared superintendent, Dr. Dawn Lewis.

Andrew Tickle was named EMT of the year with Cassy DeLosh, Runner-up EMT; Robbi

Smith was named Fireman of the Years with Lee Eastburn, Runner-up Fireman of the Year at Arnold Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Awards Banquet.

School House Graphics donated a set of corn hole boards to the SORC Winter Party.

MARCH

Rascal Martinez was the crowd pleasing entertainer at the Annual Chili Cook-Off. Touch of Grace Massage earned top honors for "Best Chili".

Gracie Neth was the Custer County Spelling Bee Champion.

The Rialto Theatre upgraded their speaker system.

Lyndee Rogers' Photography titled "Double Vision" received a Gold Key at the MNAC art show.

Country Partners gave a generous \$2000.00 donation to the Arnold Fire Department.

The Old Mill Park was the center of attention when heavy rains and large amounts of melting snow created flooding.

A CodeRed Alert was issued for Arnold residents due to potential overflow of the wastewater plant.

Custer County residents expressed support to keep the recycling center open.

Brock Dailey was honored for being among the nation's highest producing soybean farmers in his region.

Forrest "Frosty" Ferguson was honored for 60 years of continuous membership in the American Legion Post 130.

Tatum Cool earned a gold at the State Speech Meet.

Layla Rivera earned 6th place at the State Speech Meet.

APRIL

Kenna Rogers was selected as Arnold's delegate to Girls State.

Devil's Den Bike Rally gave back close to \$9,000.00 to charities.

Arnold School Board unanimously voted to hire Mr. Mark Sievering as interim superin-

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Digging Out: Major snowstorm hits area



Photo/Debbie Connell

Pictured left was the scene on Monday morning, as multiple snowplows were at work moving and piling up 13 inches of snow that was dumped on the area over the weekend. Freezing rain started falling on Saturday, and by Sunday night, NDR and CCSO declared all highways in Custer County impassable due to high winds and blowing and drifting snow.

Arnold's Winsome Inn started receiving calls from stranded travelers at about 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, and by 6:00 p.m., it was a full house. The travelers were from several states, including California, Minnesota, Illinois, and Colorado, to name a few. Unfortunately, some travelers had to be turned away.

Weather Summary

NWS Cooperative Weather

Observer Eric Brast

DATE	HI	LOW	MT
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DEC.			
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23	60	30	0
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24	52	31	0
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25	44	24	0
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26	44	22	0
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27	35	18	0
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28	36	18	0
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29	31	21	M
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30	26	21	.50
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Observations: Dec. 28 - calm winds, freezing fog, sleet; 29th - N winds 15-20, snow, blowing snow, 10 inches total; 30th - N winds 20-30, 3 inches total snowfall.