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# The Arnold Sentinel

## Arnold Rural Route Mail Carrier Retires After 21 Years



Geri Webb, who retired from the USPS as a rural route mail carrier at the end of last year, will be honored at an open house, January 23, at Jim's Bar, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

After 21 years, Geri Webb officially retired as a rural route carrier for the Arnold Post Office on December 31. Now she plans to veer off the back roads, and take to the highways to see her kids and some of the U.S.

"I wanted to quit so I was still able to do things that I enjoy doing. I didn't want to work until I couldn't do anything afterwards," she said. "I love to be on the road. I plan to go a few places. One of the first will be traveling to see the kids in Tennessee, and lots of places in the U.S. One of the things I really want to go see is NASCAR."

Webb started as a rural carrier

assistant in November of 1994, and went full time as a rural carrier in December 2004. She served as a rural route 1 carrier up to 2004 and then was switched to rural route 2, driving 122 miles six days a week and serving about 200 customers. Her day started with sorting at 8:15 a.m. and ended at 3:01 p.m., when she returned to the office.

Over the years, Webb has encountered all kinds of weather and some really bad road conditions. Her driving skills must be excellent, because she was only pulled out twice.

"They always tell you not to go

if you are in danger, but most of the time I persevered and made it through regardless," she said. "When do you turn back once you have started? One time the mail couldn't even get to Arnold; otherwise, I always attempted, no matter what. I prayed a lot."

In 2015, Webb made post office news, when she aided a man who was bucked off a horse. She was delivering mail to a ranch when she noticed a horse bucking nearby. When Webb didn't see a rider, she looked around and spotted a man lying on the ground. She offered to call an ambulance, but he asked her to contact his daughter instead. The daughter arrived, caught the horse and took her father to a hospital. He suffered two broken ribs, damage to his rotator cuff and a bump on his head.

In the article published December 8, 2015, Postmaster Mary Pedersen called Webb "a very conscientious carrier who is always willing to help out wherever she is needed."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed (my job)," said Webb. "I was getting weary of the weather and the roads. I enjoyed being out and about. Even though it was the same every day, every day was different. What you saw was different, and the mail was different. You don't see very many people, but I enjoyed seeing the animals. The patrons who I did see were good to me."

Webb will be honored for her many years of service at a retirement party, set for January 23, at Jim's Bar, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and wish her a happy retirement.

## Principal Reports School Enrollment Up

Little changed as the school board reorganized for the new year at last week's meeting. Duane Bowers will remain president, Joe Cool vice-president, Tony Eggleston treasurer and Diana Coleman secretary. Committees also stayed the same, with Coleman, Eggleston and Rick Beshaler serving on Building and Grounds; Beshaler, Cool and Bowers on Negotiations; Coleman, Eric Nelson and Cool on Instruction and Americanism; Nelson, Eggleston and Bowers on Transportation; Coleman on the Arnold School Foundation board; and Bowers and Eggleston on the sports co-op board.

### Option-In Transportation

In action items, the board gave its approval for the superintendent to make transportation decisions for option-in students living out of the district. At last month's board meeting, a family living out of the district approached the board about transportation. It was decided then that the parents would meet the bus inside the district route, and the kids will be dropped off at home, which will not add that many more minutes to the end-of-the day route.

"The guidelines have been set, and in this way, parents will not have to approach the board personally about transportation. The end result is shorter," said Dr. Lewis. "We will find a reasonable place to pick students up. It will not set a precedence that all families get transportation. I'll be sensible and approach each request with common sense."

Dr. Lewis said she will still want to meet with the transportation committee regarding

option-in transportation. She also mentioned that another family from the same area up north has requested option-in transportation since last month's meeting.

"Within the next five years we may have one more bus route," she agreed with a comment.

### School Vehicle

Discussion was carried over on the purchase of a new school vehicle. A new driver's education car is needed, but Dr. Lewis said she feels that it could go another year for just driver's ed purposes. She recommended that a new mini van be purchased for use by teachers to take longer trips, or for transporting smaller groups of students. This vehicle could also hold a few kids. \$50,000.00 has been budgeted for a new vehicle this year, with some in depreciation from the last budget year.

Board members said they would prefer purchasing a new driver's ed car. A final decision on the make and model of the car was tabled until next month, giving Dr. Lewis time to look into choices, but a new car will be purchased before the beginning of this year's fourth quarter when students begin driving.

### Principal's Report

Principal Joel Morgan has some good news to report. Current enrollment has increased to 150 students in Grades K-12. There are 84 students in K-6 and 66 students in 7-12.

He reported on student activities, including Grades 6-12 traveling to Callaway to the nursing home and Riverview Apartments to deliver blankets during the holidays, and a Grades 6-8 "Arnold's Got Talent" incentive party. He thanked the PTA, Lana Cool, Mike Nelson, Ty Phillips, Holly Remund, Esther Ryan and Dawn Lewis for helping out with this fun event. Students in Grades 9-12 had a nerf gun war and played dodge ball at the community center for their incentive party.

Other reports were:

Five Arnold students were scheduled to attend the third CAPABLE Ag-related Career Day on January 13.

The county spelling bee has

## Controversial NSAA Transgender Policy Discussed at School Board Meeting

### School District Votes Yes on Gender at Birth Amendment

At the January 12 school board meeting, Superintendent Dawn Lewis gave a report on the Nebraska School Activities Association's (NSAA) controversial Transgender Policy set to be voted on by the NSAA board that week.

The policy, as written, will allow gender reassigned boys to play on girls' sports teams under specific board review, and gender reassigned girls to play on boys' sports teams. Legal liability may increase for local schools who won't support this policy, or provide a student to use the locker rooms and bathrooms for the opposite sex.

The NSAA intends to have a review board for students who wish to compete with the opposite sex to try to ensure safety and fairness. The proposal would require male-to-female transgender students to provide documentation of at least a year of hormone therapy in an effort to address competitive equity concerns about males being physically larger than females. It also would require transgender students to use private bathrooms and locker rooms of those that match their biological gender.

Out of the eight NSAA board members representing six districts, only one, A.H.S. graduate Dan Keyser of Sutherland, voted no to advancing the policy.

Dr. Lewis said she would be attending a meeting of administrators in District IV the next day, and would cast a "yes" vote in favor of a language requiring students to participate in sports based on their sex at birth. Another proposal, which she would vote "no" on, would determine gender based on a student's current birth certificate, a document that can be amended after a gender change. Administrators will be voting not on the policy itself, but on the language.

"Jarod (Rush) and I talked about this extensively, and putting our own feelings aside, we feel this supports the majority opinion and values of our constituents at both Arnold and Callaway schools," she said. "The NSAA can override the amendment even with (administrators') votes. It will offer some protection to the NSAA from frivolous lawsuits. It is a very controversial topic in the state. Most of the districts have voted to elect that the "certificate at birth" language be used in policy."

When asked if Arnold school could make its own policy, Dr. Lewis said yes, and separate locker room space could be offered to transgender students.

"The school is being given one small opportunity to speak. (The NSAA) is setting it up so the school is on its own in case of litigation," said board member Tony Eggleston. "(NSAA) can say, 'thanks for your opinion, but we're doing this.'"

Board member Joe Cool noted that no matter what our school's policy is, we will still be hosting other schools. If APS contradicts NSAA policy, the courts will force the school to comply.

"The students are not going to be comfortable with this. It's not just the adults," said Dr. Lewis. "Nebraska has traditionally gone on its own, but this could eradicate state sanctioned high school sports for communities that refuse to comply. It's coming down from Federal Court decisions."

### Policy Passes

On Thursday, January 14, the NSAA board passed the policy by a 6-2 vote, creating a process to allow transgender students to participate in sports. Keyser again voted no, and this time was joined by one of two District 2 representatives, Bob Reznicek of Boys Town.

The new policy will become a part of the NSAA's bylaws and

take effect immediately.

The policy still faces a challenge from the membership, including Arnold and Callaway school districts. Four of the six legislative districts voted in favor of the birth-certificate policy. Because of this, the organi-

zation's representative assembly will vote on it at its April meeting. If the assembly approves the birth-certificate proposal by a super majority, it will supersede the policy passed

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Logan County Deputy Sheriff Mike Rath, Lori Stutzman, food pantry director, and Logan County Sheriff Sean Carson pose for a picture in the Arnold Food Pantry. Logan County residents donated boxes of food, along with household cleaners and clothing, through Creative Printers in Stapleton. (Marcia Hora photo)

## Logan County Residents Donate to Arnold Food Pantry

Logan County residents answered the call for food pantry items to help stock the shelves of the Arnold Food Pantry.

For every item you brought in to Creative Printers in Stapleton, \$1.00 was taken off the price of your yearly subscription to *The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News*, *The Arnold Sentinel* or *Thomas County Herald*.

People responded with countless items and many said they did not want the price deducted from their subscription.

"The newspaper is well

worth the price we pay," one subscriber commented.

Several people said they were "giving back" because others had helped them when help was needed.

Delivery to the Arnold Food Pantry was made by Logan County Sheriff, Sean Carson, and Logan County Deputy Sheriff, Mike Rath.

The Arnold Food Pantry is located in the basement of Finch Memorial Library.

Lori Stutzman said shelves are looking much better because of a food drive and donations through Arnold Insurance

Agency, as well as the one in Stapleton through Creative Printers.

The food pantry is in need of laundry products, peas, condiments, diapers (various sizes) shampoo, tuna, Hamburger Helper, baby wipes, facial tissues, spaghetti sauce, cereal, deodorant, combs and brushes. Items may be dropped off at Finch Memorial Library or left at one of the Arnold churches.

For more information on the Arnold Food Pantry, you may contact Lori at 308-636-6333.