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South Loup River Valley

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# The Arnold Sentinel



Leighton Bubak (center) and Tatum Cool (right) presented their winning V.F.W. Patriot's Pen essays at the District 11 V.F.W. meeting in Ord last Sunday. Local V.F.W. Commander Gene Tullis (left) was present to see the Arnold students receive their honors. Both essays moved on to be judged at the state level, where Tatum's is now in the top three. (Courtesy photo)

## Arnold Home to Young, Talented Writers

Tatum Cool and Leighton Bubak placed first and second, respectively, in the 2014 local V.F.W. Patriot's Pen essay contest. Their essays went on to be judged at the district level, and out of all of the entries received in the district, these two young writers placed first and second again, respectively.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen essay contest is for students in Grades 6-8 and challenges them to reflect on American history and their own experiences based on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is, "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans."

Both students presented their winning essays at the District 11 meeting in Ord on Sunday, January 18. In recognition of excellence in the essay competition, they were each given cash awards and were designated

"An Outstanding Young Spokesperson of the Future." Gene Tullis, commander of Arnold's VFW 6157 Post, was present for the honors.

There were 3,128 participants in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest across the state. Tatum and Leighton's essays were among the top to advance to the State Level, where Tatum's essay placed in the top three in the State of Nebraska. She and her family have been invited to tour the State Capitol and have lunch at the Governor's Mansion in Lincoln on February 6. Tatum will be honored that evening at the Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars Mid-Winter Conference, where the state winner will be announced.

Principal Dawn Lewis said that everyone at APS is very proud of Tatum's accomplishment.

"I was so excited to hear Tatum was selected as one of the top three essays in the state, but not surprised," said Mrs. Lewis. "She is a bright and lovely young lady, and expressed her thoughts in a very mature manner. She very much deserves this honor."

"It is always fun to watch a student find success in their writing," said English teacher Nicole Badgley. "I am proud of her and glad that she has had good writing teachers throughout all the grades before eighth grade, to make this happen."

Arnold residents are asked to "stay tuned" to *The Sentinel* to learn if Tatum wins first place honors at state.

Tatum is the daughter of Shane and Lana Cool, and Leighton is the son of Ted and Renee Bubak.

## Sewer Rates to Increase Starting March 15

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees approved increasing sewer rates at their regular meeting held on January 12. Their decision was based on a sewer rate study conducted by the Nebraska Rural Water Association and the cost involved in updating the sewer system's aging infrastructure. Before voting, board members were given an example of how much rates would increase for their own household.

Village Clerk Patty Lamberty said that everyone will see a \$2.50 increase from the current \$8.50 to \$11.00 per month base charge, plus an additional .35 cents per thousand gallons of water usage.

Residential customers will be charged \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons based on average winter water usage during the months of December, January and February. Commercial usage will be the average of 12 months of water usage.

Residents haven't seen an increase in sewer rates since back in 2003; most will see their bill go up by about \$4.00 a month. Even with the increase, Arnold still has one of the lowest rates as compared to other municipalities.

"The majority of residential customers will see a charge of \$11.75 to \$16.00 per month depending on their usage," said Lamberty.

### AEDC Director Sought

Arnold Economic Development Corporation President Andrew Tickle gave board members the Director updates in the absence of Sandy Hicks, who recently resigned and moved to Kansas City for a family medical issue. Tickle said the AEDC is seeking applicants for the director's position through January 26.

"There is a big void there to fill," said Tickle. "(Sandy) was one who could take things and run with it. We didn't appoint committees - they held her back. Overwhelmingly, she got good exposure for our community. (The AEDC) was becoming project oriented and we really

want business development. Unfortunately, Sandy was really on board and ready to move forward before she resigned."

Tickle said Hicks also resigned from the Ogallala Commons Board of Directors, which was an honor to serve on.

"We'll review the applications at our next meeting, and we're hoping to have good candidates. Hopefully, we'll have someone in the position by March," he said.

Meanwhile, Tickle said he received a crash course from Hicks on keeping up with the director's weekly duties, and said Kristi Dvorak is taking care of website updates. The Arnold Cemetery Website financials have also been signed over to Dvorak.

Hicks had also completed a rough draft of the new LB840 plan that will need to be voted on by Arnold residents. Tickle said the LB840 extension committee needs to look it over and work on a voting date. The committee has been setting its sights on this spring for a special election, but Tickle said that because of this hiccup, the election may have to be pushed back to the fall.

Clint Lewis plans to resign from the AEDC board due to school commitments, but will continue to serve until a replacement is found. At Monday night's meeting, the trustees approved the appointment of new member Sara Buccholz, but one additional person will still be needed to fill a sixth position.

### Community Clean-Up Month

Board members once again designated the month of April as Community Clean-Up Month. Roll out containers will be available free of charge to residents. Community Clean-Up Day will be on April 24. A Keep Nebraska Beautiful grant of \$50.00 will be used to provide bottled water and snacks for the volunteers, and Chamber will provide a meal.

### Superintendent's Report

Bill Moser said that monthly

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## School Board Reorganizes/ Starts Search for Principal

Much stayed the same at last Tuesday night's regular school board meeting, as members reorganized for the new year.

Duane Bowers will remain president, Joe Cool is vice-president, Tony Eggleston is treasurer and Diana Coleman is secretary. Committees also stayed the same. Coleman, Eggleston and Rick Beshaler will serve on Building and Grounds; Beshaler, Cool and Bowers, Negotiations; Coleman, Eric Nelson and Cool, Instruction and Americanism; Nelson, Eggleston and Bowers, Transportation; Coleman, Arnold School Foundation board; and Bowers and Eggleston, Co-Op board.

### Principal Search

In non-action items, discussion was held on the search for a new principal. Dawn Lewis, who will move to the superintendent's position this summer, will be directing the effort. The school will advertise the position in the *World Herald*, *Lincoln Journal Star*, *Kearney Hub* and the "Teach in Nebraska" website, with a closing date on applications of February 10. Special meetings will be held the week of February 16 and the candidates will be narrowed to six prior to the meeting. The board will then narrow that number down to four to interview. The top four candidates will interview on February 28.

This will be a full day for the four candidates, as they will first interview with staff and a couple of parents and community members. They will go on to interview with the superintendent, school board, and again, with parents and com-

munity members. The candidates will also receive a tour of the community with parents and business leaders. The position will be offered to the best candidate at the completion of the interviews, and the contract will be approved at the March board meeting.

### Principal's Report

Mrs. Lewis has registered to attend the legislative conference hosted by NASB in Lincoln on January 26. If possible, she may combine this with a dissertation workday using one of her personal days.

Music students have three Monday music festivals in January. Several students attended the Oregon Trails honor band in Gering, there is a UNK honor band festival for underclassmen the next Monday, and the following Monday there will be an honor choir festival at UNK as well.

The NeSA Writing test window opens on January 19 and remains open for three weeks. The eighth grade students will take the assessment on January 20, and Mrs. Lewis is waiting to hear when the fourth and eleventh grade students will take the assessment.

January is mentor recognition month for TeamMates. The Arnold chapter will be formally recognizing and thanking mentors during half-time of the girls' basketball game on January 22.

There will be no school on January 23 as a winter break. This will also be the day of the South Loup Wrestling Invite in Callaway, and several staff members and students will be assisting with that tournament.

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The Dailey family (from left), Della, Lindy, Becky, Alan (holding Bo), Brock, Robin, and (front) Paityn and Kora. (Courtesy photo)

## Benefit Planned for Arnold Couple

Friends of Alan and Becky Dailey of Arnold are "pulling together" and putting on a community "pulled pork" sandwich meal on Friday, January 30, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the Arnold Community Center. All proceeds from the free will donation event will go towards Alan's medical expenses.

Dailey was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010. He has undergone treatment for cancer in his bones and is now undergoing treatment for cancer

in his brain. After finishing another round of radiation, he will undergo chemotherapy.

Dailey is employed by All Points Cooperative. He is working a couple of hours a day and gets worn out easily.

"We have had people drive Alan to appointments for the last three rounds of radiation," Becky Dailey said. "People have also been bringing in meals which has been a tremendous help. You cannot believe the outpouring we have received

and Alan and I are so grateful. It's what living in a small town really means. People do care about each other and they show it here."

Proceeds from the benefit will go towards incidentals and travel expenses.

"Alan continues to do very well and we will get through this," Becky added. "Words cannot express how much we appreciate what everyone has been doing for us."