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The Arnold Sentinel

Residents Give Input on Supt. Search

Last week, the Arnold and Callaway school boards and shared superintendent Pat Osmond extended an invitation to patrons of both districts to give their input on the search for a new superintendent at a meeting scheduled for October 6.

Patrons of both school districts answered the invitation, and their input will prove to be a valuable tool in the search.

The two schools have contracted with NRCSA to provide consulting services in developing the recruitment and selection process. Two NRCSA representatives were there to facilitate the meeting at the Arnold Community Center last Monday. The reps, Alan Harms and Jim Havelka, are retired school administrators with careers in rural schools. Havelka said he was a shared superintendent in schools much like Arnold and Callaway.

"Both of us bring to this job a knowledge of rural schools and their needs. We want to engage the communities to know their concerns and receive their input," said Harms.

Earlier, the men developed a profile of the schools with faculty and staff, and then met with the two boards.

At 6:30 p.m., the packed community center meeting room was set up for round table discussions, with a mix of Arnold and Callaway residents at each table. Harms started out by saying that it is important for the boards to know what the public wants, and that was the purpose of the meeting. The timeline for the search was given, beginning last month with an initial planning meeting with the two boards and Monday's community input meeting. Beginning on October 20, the announcement of the vacancy will be widely distributed through November in the *Omaha World Herald* and online. The deadline for applications will be November 21.

On December 1 the boards will select the finalists and pre-interview planning will begin with the boards and the faculty and staff committee. Finalists will be interviewed on December 6 and the contract will be issued on December 8 or subsequently.

Profile worksheets were handed out at each table, asking participants to list separately the greatest strengths or positive qualities of the two school districts. They were also asked to list what critical issues the school districts will face in the next three years, and to list the most important qualities, characteristics or skills patrons believe the next superintendent should possess.

Both schools had a long list of strengths or positive qualities that were read out loud from each table. The list of critical issues that the districts will face was equally long. One thing was clear: both districts want to keep their separate identities and do not want total consolidation in the future.

Just a few of the qualities, characteristics or skills that residents want to see in a new shared superintendent include: good communication skills, community involvement, committed to being here for the long run, fiscally responsible, previous experience as a dual superintendent and a strong leader. Residents also feel it is important that the new super maintain the integrity of each school.

The super's involvement with students was also brought up.

One retired Arnold teacher said, "Throughout my teaching career we have had supers who were involved with students and some who had limited involvement."

Another Arnold resident

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New Arnold Website Goes Live

After months of planning and work, the Arnold Economic Development Corporation's (AEDC) new Arnold website went live on October 2, replacing the website that was created back in 2008.

AEDC contracted with Melody Hansen of Sublime Artistry to design and host the site. Kristi Dvorak, who is a project director for Sublime Artistry, said the new site is easier to navigate and actually smaller than the old site.

"We wanted to keep the site smaller so it's easier to maintain and update, and hopefully more timely and accurate," she said, adding that they are still fine tuning a few things.

Reviewing over 200 web pages, a committee made up of AEDC board members Andrew Tickle and Karen Horst and Director Sandy Hicks made the decisions on what content would stay, go or be changed. The committee also decided on the Home Page design and on the site map. Sandy updated all of the content and photos.

"We had a really good idea of what needed to be changed from clients and the web history of what pages were looked at. It was really imperative to what goes where," said Sandy.

The site has been designed to be more interactive. The real estate listings now allow for viewing of slide shows and more and larger photos. There is better calendar function, obituaries are posted, and the site now

has the ability to embed movie trailers of current movies showing at the Rialto Theatre. The *Arnold Sentinel* page was redesigned so that the front pages can be archived farther back.

One of the things that was lost on the old site was the ability for the AEDC director to blog about things that are happening in Arnold. The new site, which has a News page, fixes that problem.

The site is now formatted to use on mobile devices.

"This was one of the targets we're trying to reach. Sixty-percent of visits now come from mobile devices," said Kristi.

Beautiful scenery and event photos on the site have been submitted by local photographers. Kristi said photos can enhance it or hinder it.

"We're lucky to have some very talented photographers in Arnold," she said. "The people who have contributed photos are so important and need credit," said Kristi. "Garald Horst has a lot on the site, and Bill and Eileen Moser have given their permission for us to use (the late) Terry King's photos. A lot of those are of sunsets at the Arnold Recreation Area. They are just beautiful. Photos by Cheryl Peterson and Cory Peterson are also there."

People are encouraged to submit photos by going to the Contact page, fill out the form and download their photos. They can also contact the AEDC office to submit.



The Home Page of the new Arnold website. The site has been designed for easier navigation and is formatted to use on mobile devices.

Sandy, who will now be able to do instant updates, said she has had a lot of people tell her they love the new site.

"Melody and Kristi did a fantastic job," she said. "People

aren't aware of the level of detail involved in developing a site."

To visit the site, go to www.arnoldne.org.

Devil's Den Motorcycle Organization Donates Proceeds From Rally to Charities



Students Malachi Neth (far left) and Alex Streit (seated, third from left) were nabbed out of the hallway early last Friday morning to show how items purchased by the Devil's Den Motorcycle Organization for the "Autism Awareness" program can be used for any student in the school. They are pictured with Mike Nelson, President of the DDMO, Berni Crow, Vice-President, and Renee Bubak, Special Ed/Elementary teacher at APS. (Courtesy photo)

The Devil's Den Bike Rally recently donated a total of \$2,700.00 to three organizations with proceeds from the third annual event.

The first charity, "Autism Awareness" at Arnold Public Schools, will receive \$800.00 in the form of purchasing needed items for the six identified students with autism. The rally committee worked with teachers of these students to obtain the list, but the sensory items can be used by all students.

"Even though the charity is called 'Autism Awareness,' we

knew that all students could benefit," said Devil's Den Motorcycle organization Vice-President Berni Crow.

Items purchased for the students were: lumin disc, half and half therapy ball, weighted blanket, Kids Kore wobble chair, Teen Kore wobble chair, tactile air cushion, weighted puppy, Stretch Eze, putty, Fit Sit cushion, green gel lap pad, lava lamp, rep board and dancing water speakers. A divider will be made out of PVC pipe to make a "private office" for students.

The school's "TeamMates" program will receive \$500.00. The program has 29 paired students with adult mentors, and the cash donation will be for the organization's projects.

"Out of the Darkness," a support group for families who have been impacted by a suicide, will receive \$1,000.00. In the United States, a person dies by suicide every 13.5 minutes, claiming more than 39,500 lives each year. It is estimated that a suicide attempt is made every minute. The group also increases public awareness of

how to help prevent this terrible tragedy from happening.

And finally, the South Loup Bobcat cheerleaders will receive \$400.00 for the work they do in helping the committee prepare for the Rally.

The Devil's Den Motorcycle organization sponsors the bike rally each year in July. Members who have helped and attend planning sessions regularly include the following: Kendra and Mike Nelson, Heather and Zach Hagler, Heidi and Brent Kulp, Tammy and Darren Wein-

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