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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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The Arnold Sentinel



Terry Conley takes a break from selling items from his vendor booth last Friday morning to demonstrate for the photographer how a bugle from the U.S. Civil War sounds. The bugle and other antiques and collectibles, were among hundreds of treasures that could be found at the community center and around town last weekend when the Nebraska Junk Jaunt and its followers from several states came to town. (Janet Larreau photo)

On The Route

Since the Nebraska Jaunt began 10 years ago, Arnold has been “out of the loop.” Last weekend, hundreds of bargain hunters stopped in Arnold thanks to the efforts of Betty Yeargain, who took on the challenge of putting Arnold on the map for Chamber.

The Junk Jaunt route normally runs through two of Nebraska’s most beautiful Scenic Byways, the Sandhills Journey Byway and the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway, forming the basic “looping route” of the Junk Jaunt. The 500-mile garage sale runs through nine-and-a-half counties; last weekend, scenic

Custer County was added as hundreds of people traveling in and out of the loop came through Arnold.

The Junk Jaunt draws an estimated 20,000 shoppers and has grown to include hundreds of vendors. In this, Arnold’s first year, 16 vendors were listed in the official guide, with eight setting up at the community center. Included in the total count were downtown businesses.

Out-of-town shoppers started trickling in on Thursday - before the official start. On Friday, it was apparent that putting Arnold on the map was

paying off. Yeargain estimated some 200 people had entered the community center on Friday alone with one day left to go.

They were coming from all over Nebraska and the states of Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, Iowa, Utah and Kansas.

Holly Remund, who ran a vendor booth packed full of antiques and collectibles, said it was really busy Friday morning, and then slowed down a bit. She, along with other vendors, were more than happy with the amount they had sold thus far.

Public Invited to Give Input on Superintendent

By now I am sure that many of you know that I have submitted my letter of resignation to the Callaway and Arnold Boards of Education and plan to retire at the expiration of my contract on June 30, 2015. The purpose of this article is to share with you the process that is being employed to ensure that we have a quality pool of candidates from which to select the next Superintendent.

First, it is important to note that both Boards have agreed to continue sharing the Superintendent between the school districts. This arrangement has worked well the past four years and I see no reason why it should not continue to do so. In order to facilitate the hiring of a new Superintendent, the Boards have contracted with the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) to provide consulting services in developing the recruitment and selection process. To date, the Boards have met twice with the representatives from NRCSA (Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association) and discussed topics such as the use of committees; the timeline to be used in the selection process; the scope of advertising the position; the interview format; and compensation package guidelines.

In order to obtain input from the staff at both schools, I have been asked to assist in putting together a committee that will include representatives of

Arnold and Callaway teaching staff non-teaching staff of both schools. This committee is scheduled to meet with the NRCSA Representatives on October 6 in Callaway.

Recognizing the fact that having the community participation in this process is very important, the Boards and NRCSA consultants will have a meeting on October 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Arnold Community Center for the purpose of providing members from both communities with the opportunity to offer input to the consultants.

After completing this process the position will be advertised in November with a tentative application deadline of November 21. Interviews will be scheduled after the finalists are selected. It is anticipated that a candidate will be hired prior to December 20.

As you can see from the description of the search process, the Boards of Education are committed to seeking input from the staff and communities. As a community member it is important to share your thoughts regarding the qualifications of the next superintendent. If you cannot attend the community meeting on October 6 in Arnold please make sure you share your thoughts and ideas with your respective Board of Education.

*Patrick Osmond,
Superintendent
Arnold and Callaway Public
School Districts*

Early Voting Starts in Nebraska

LINCOLN - Ballots for the general election are in the hands of some Nebraska voters. Secretary of State John Gale says county election officials began mailing ballots to early voters starting on Monday, September 29.

“Those will be sent to people who have already completed early voting ballot requests,” explained Gale. “Then five days later, starting October 4, Nebraskans will be able to show up at their county election office and vote there.”

Early voting was a popular option among voters during the 2012 presidential election. Twenty-six percent of registered voters in Nebraska cast their ballots early.

“We experienced a real surge in 2012 for early voting. We hope it will be equally strong in the upcoming general election.

Certainly, casting a ballot early is a convenience for a lot of people who, for whatever reason, can’t get to the polls on Election Day.”

October 17 marks another key deadline for Nebraska voters. Any registrations sent in by mail must be postmarked by that day. Also, that’s the last day voter registrations can be completed at Department of Motor Vehicle offices, county treasurer offices, state agencies or departments.

Any Nebraska resident needing to complete or update their voter registration can go to the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ne.gov. Voter forms are located under the “Elections” tab. That is the same place where voters can request an early voting form be mailed to them. Forms are in both English and Spanish.

Custer Public Power Presents “Storm Soldiers”

Custer Public Power District is celebrating Public Power Week, October 5-11, 2014, by presenting the film “Storm Soldiers” several times throughout the week at the Tiffany Theater. Most of us take for granted the work it takes to build and maintain the power grid that powers our lives. Linemen work behind the scenes protecting our way of life, rebuilding after natural disasters and putting their lives on the line every day. “Storm Soldiers” is a film about the men and women who make it all happen; it tells an incredible story about the safety, family and brotherhood it takes to keep our lights on.

Hubbell Power Systems, Inc. partnered with Tytan Creates and spent a year-and-a-half interviewing linemen across North America. From Arizona to North Carolina, Montana to Texas, and from the restoration of Hurricane Irene to the destruction of Hurricane Sandy, they left no story untapped to uncover the history and lives of these unsung heroes.

“Storm Soldiers” was debuted to the graduating class of Mesa

Hotline School in May of 2013, entered into 24 film festivals and has been shown to more than 8,000 people in the power industry. Nearly 6,000 copies of the movies have been sold, raising \$60,000 for charities that support linemen and their families.

Hubbell Power Systems, Inc. is a major manufacturer of products that support the delivery of power and are used to assemble utility structures in the 8,000 square mile service territory of Custer Public Power District. The District would like you to bring the family to see the film; enjoy free admission and popcorn.

Ranked #5

Nebraska has been ranked #5 in the Most Happy States in the U.S. according to a Gallup-Healthways poll, which measures well-being around the world. The poll found that a pleasant state of being does not depend solely on financial security, but on several elements, including environment, social connections and general outlook on life.



The Day the Bear Came to Town

Rich Hornung’s big black bear with cub was creating quite a buzz in town at the beginning of the week. Rich, who with his wife, Jane, sat up a vendor station at Merna during last weekend’s Junk Jaunt, came across a man named Larry Silverthorn from Rogue River, Oregon, who was traveling to Indiana with a trailer and using the bear as weight before picking up another load. Silverthorn was willing to sell, and, “Guess what, I bought it!” said Rich. The plan now is to have a separate cub carved by the same Oregon resident. The 600-pound giant was carved out of Red Wood from the California/Oregon forests. Once the yet-un-born cub is shipped by freight, the pair will be placed at the entrance to the Hornung’s rural Arnold driveway. (Janet Larreau photo)