

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Halloween Contest & Carnival Set for Friday

Chamber's Annual Kids' Costume Contest & Carnival will be held Friday, November 1. The free carnival will start at 9:00 a.m. at the community center with judging starting at 10:00 a.m. sharp. New games this year include: limbo, basket toss, nerf gun target practice, and favorites such as plinko, marble, and darts/balloons will return.

Nine age groups will be judged in the costume contest, and the top three winners in each age group will receive large prizes. Families and adults can vie for the coveted "Best Themed Family or Group" award and one of three "Best Dressed Adult" awards.

Pumpkins will also be judged, so bring your decorated pumpkin.

A parade through downtown businesses will follow judging and awards (approximate time 10:30 a.m.)

A matinee of "The Addams Family Movie," sponsored by Arnold Chamber, will be shown at 3:00 p.m. at the Rialto. Regular admission price will apply.

Organizers are Kendra Veirs, Katie Weinman, and Rose Bierman.



Melva Phillips, daughter of Marion "Scotty" Scott, provided the above photo taken in 1971 when her father led the One Box Pheasant Hunt Astronaut Team on a hunt around the Arnold area. Pictured are: (top row, l-r) Astronauts Paul Weitz, Ron Evans, Deke Slayton (team captain), and Hunt Guide Marion Scott; (bottom row, l-r) Astronauts Jack Swigert, Jack Lousma, and score keeper Howard Hanson of Broken Bow.

## Remembering Apollo

One Box Astronaut Team hunts in Arnold area in 1971

By Janet Larreau

In July of 2019 the United States remembered the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 - the first successful mission to land humans on the moon and bring them safely back to Earth.

For Arnold resident Melva Phillips and brother Loren, the anniversary of that first successful mission brought back memories of a time two years later in the fall of 1971, when five astronauts involved in the Apollo program were led by their father on a pheasant hunt in the Arnold area.

"Dad helped with the One Box Pheasant Hunt for several years. He was so interested in

the space program and had followed it for years. If there was a space thing going on on TV, we would sit down as a family and watch it. He was extremely excited to have (the astronauts) as his group," said Melva.

One of Marion "Scotty" Scott's jobs as a One Box guide was to get permission from farmers and ranchers to hunt on their property. Melva said that being a mail route carrier didn't hurt a bit.

"He knew where all the birds were," she said.

At 6:00 a.m. on the morning of the hunt, the astronauts were treated to breakfast at Archie's Café, which happened to be Melva's grandfather's eatery. Melva was just 16 years old.

"They were just the nicest

guys, and I wasn't a morning person, but got up early to help serve them," said Melva.

Led by Scotty, with son Loren at his side, the astronauts hunted on quite a few cornfields and around the river.

The astronauts never forgot Scotty, and mailed him a three-ring, hardbacked album containing signed full color photos of themselves, and photos taken of the moon from space. The binder also included a letter written on the letterhead "National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas, dated November 29, 1971, that read:

"Dear Marion,

We want you and Loren to know how much we appreciate your successful efforts to round

up all those birds for us to blaze away at during the One Box Pheasant Hunt. No doubt a good deal of prior preparation was required on your part to secure so many productive hunting areas. Perhaps by now you have had an opportunity to go back and clip the wings of some of those birds we missed.

We also send our regards to your wife and daughter, Frances and Melva, along with our thanks for their work in getting us off to a good start with a good breakfast on the day of the competition.

Thanks again and best wishes to you and your family for a happy holiday season."

The letter was signed by all members of the Astronaut

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## Arnold Public Schools gets "excellent" rating from Nebraska Department of Education

By Janet Larreau

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) released test scores and performance ratings for Nebraska schools and districts in October, and for our district, it was great news. Arnold Public Schools received an overall "excellent" AQuESTT rating, with both the high school and elementary grades receiving "excellent" ratings, and the middle school receiv-

ing a "great" rating. This was an improvement from the previous year, when the district received an overall rating of "great." Possible ratings include: needs improvement, good, great or excellent.

The scores include data from students who took the NSCAS General and NSCAS Alternate Assessments last spring. The district's test scores were high compared to the state average. In English Language Arts, the district was at 70% proficiency, compared to the state's average

of 52%. In Mathematics, the district was at 73% proficiency, compared to the state's 52%. Science scores were masked because the number of students taking the test was below the threshold of 10 or fewer. Proficiency means that students are "on track" or meeting the "College and Career Readiness Benchmark."

When looking at the data, the district outperforms similar peers across the state, especially in English Language Arts.

The Accountability for a Quality Education Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) rating includes not only testing data, but other factors as well, including:

- Positive Partnerships, Relationships and Success

- Transitions (such as moving from elementary to middle school and on to high school)

- Educational Opportunity and Access

- College, Career, and Civic Ready

- Assessment

- Educator Effectiveness

"I'm pretty excited about it," said Principal Joel Morgan. "We like to see improvements each year and it shows that our staff really looks into this and knows our students. One area we always grade ourselves high on when filling out the form is the community connections. That is where we really excel and it puts us a little bit higher than others. Our big focus has been career readiness through the CAPABLE program, STEM (Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering and Math) and manufacturing through School House Graphic Products. There is a high demand for jobs in those areas and it just gives our kids a hands-on opportunity for skills as far as career exploration. We have good communication with businesses through the internship programs and have an open door policy. If we have established those foundational skills and expand, we can focus on career exploration and those types of things when (the students) are older."

Superintendent Mark Sievering said it speaks highly of everything that's been going on at the school. "Many districts would be very envious of those ratings," he said.

## Cerny Receives NSVFA 50-Year Membership Award

Dell Cerny of Arnold was presented a 50-year membership award at the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA) Annual Conference held October 17-20 at Kearney's Holiday Inn.

Cerny began his career as a volunteer fireman in 1964 at Gordon, Nebraska, and joined the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department in 1974 after being appointed a deputy fire marshal. His jurisdiction covered a wide area Arnold was right in the center. In 1978 he was appointed as a fire investigator.

He was one of the first members of the Nebraska Critical In-

cident Support Membership Team, formed in 1980. The program trains volunteer peers to provide crisis support for law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services, corrections, hospitals, emergency management personnel, and dispatchers.

Dell was only 20 years old when he started his career as a volunteer fireman.

"I felt there was a need to serve and protect fellow citizens, friends, and family. I felt sorry for people who had disasters in their lives and there was a need to support them. To me it was a challenge, and because

of my job, it was enhanced. I'm glad to be here and able to serve," he said.

AVFD member and former fire chief Robbi Smith, who has served the community alongside Dell for several decades, said, "Dell has been in the fire service almost his entire life. His knowledge of fire science and fire investigation has been a great asset to the Arnold Fire Department. Dell is always ready to jump in and help wherever he is needed. His participation in state and national organizations has helped to put the Arnold Fire Department on the map."



Courtesy Photo/Nebraska Firefighter

Dell Cerny (right) receives an award for 50 years of membership in the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association from Chris Chada (left) at the NSVFA annual conference held in October.