

Happy Thanksgiving

There is always something for which to be thankful.

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Over \$45,000 raised at ACFF Auction



Photo/Diana Coleman

ACFF Individual Philanthropist of the Year award winner Robbi Smith.

By Janet Larreau

Two-hundred people enjoyed the annual Arnold Community Foundation dinner and fundraiser auction Saturday night at the community center. Over \$45,000.00 was raised to help local entities continue to make improvements and to grow the community's savings account. The event consistently draws over 200 people each year, and is supported by area businesses that donate items for both the live and silent auctions.

Each Year the ACFF gives an award to a local organization and an individual who has demonstrated years of commitment and time to the Arnold Community. The award winners of the past have all had great contributions to the community in efforts that often go unrecognized.

Presented by ACFF committee member Becky Dailey, the 2018 Philanthropist of the Year award for the category of organizations went to the members of Arnold volunteer fire department. The Arnold Volunteer Fire Department is comprised of a group of men and women who exhibit a commitment to the town and citizens that is unmatched.



Courtesy photo

The ACFF Organizational Philanthropist of the Year award went to members of the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured, (front) from left, are: Eric Nelson, Heather Hagler, Cassy DeLosh, Tammy Weinman, Josh Flint, Brady Weinman, Shelley Smith, Nancy Cool, Diana Coleman, April Tickle, Susan Nelson; (back) Donnell DeLosh, Robbi Smith, Austin Snyder, Brock Dailey, Cameron Meyer, Brent Hall, Andrew Tickle, Darren Weinman, Irv Jennings and Justin Conner.

“Our volunteer fire department is the life-line between life and death in rural communities. Men and women remain on call 24/7. They face this commitment and seriousness, meeting public safety needs in our rural area in a variety of ways,” said Dailey. “The volunteer firefighters require continuous training to ensure he or she is adequately prepared for the variety of situations that may develop. Their presence is of paramount importance for the safety of our participants and volunteers of the SORC. Our Volunteer Fire Department is also crucial in assisting EMTs, participating in ambulance calls, fire prevention education in our schools, and keeping our community safe by watching for impending destructive storm systems. They leave their families and jobs at all hours of the day and night to care for and protect us. We are grateful.”

The Individual Philanthropist of the Year Award was presented to an individual who has given most of his adult life to Arnold's volunteer fire department. 2018 marks Robbi Smith's 40th Year serving on Arnold's Fire Department. Several of those years, he was president

of the volunteer organization and has served as fire chief for the past 14 years. “Robbi has been instrumental in keeping the department up-to-date with life-saving equipment. He has worked diligently with the fire board to obtain new equipment and has completed several important projects in conjunction with the fire service, earning him the prestigious Fireman of the Year award several times over the past decades of service. Robbi is a trusted driver for EMT calls and is a willing aid at all times of the day or night. He is known

for his calm demeanor on the radio and is well respected by neighboring departments. It is a common sight to see Robbi's vehicle parked at the fire station, either serving an emergency call or preparing for one, Robbi has dedicated thousands of hours,” said Dailey.

According to his wife, Shelley, Robbi has a special place in his heart for Arnold's Fire Department. He recently passed the torch of fire chief on to Eric Nelson, but will continue to play a role

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Christmas Around Town will offer something for everyone

Arnold Chamber will host its annual Christmas Around town on Wednesday, November 28. The day will begin with shopping at local businesses that are offering extended hours, specials and drawings. Santa's visit, the appearance of live reindeer, and hayrack rides will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the

community center. From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Chamber will be serving a free pasta bar supper in appreciation for all who support the businesses in Arnold during the year.

For more details on the complete schedule and what businesses are offering on that day, please turn to page 8.

Here they come... click, click, click!

Live reindeer will make appearance in Arnold November 28 at community center

By Janet Larreau

Can reindeer really fly? That is the #1 question Stable Productions owner Phillip “Flip” Licking is asked by both kids and adults when he and his reindeer make an appearance in the state of Nebraska.

The answer is, no they really can't. It's one question no one reading this article will have to ask when Flip brings his reindeer to Arnold during Christmas Around Town on Wednesday, November 28. But no doubt, there will be plenty of other questions he will be asked about these fascinating creatures when three females, “Hot Lips”, “April” and “Hula” appear at the community center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Flip's exotic animal ranch, located in Seneca, Nebraska, has a variety of exotic and domestic animals. He purchased his reindeer from a gentleman in South Dakota 12 years ago, and now raises his own. Currently, he cares for 15. As far as he knows, there are only five people in the state that have reindeer.

“I got a phone call from some people in Omaha asking if I could bring my reindeer to their event even though there is already a family there in Omaha who have reindeer. The reason



Courtesy photo

Reindeer (pictured here at their home near Seneca) will be at the Arnold Community Center on Wednesday, November 28, as part of Christmas Around Town. People will be able to interact with these gentle and well-adjusted creatures.

my reindeer are so popular is because they are the only ones in the state that people can pet,” he said.

Although the reindeer are very tame

Did you know?

“Reindeer can restrict blood flow to their legs so that there is more blood in their body to keep them from freezing to death.”

- Phillip “Flip” Licking

and can be petted, they do tend to get overwhelmed with large crowds for a long period of time.

“My biggest event for the year is in Norfolk. The reindeer draw a crowd of around 4,500 people at the mall. I actually had to turn people away at one time. I felt terrible because some had waited in line for quite some time, but the reindeer were ready to be done for the day,” he said.

Flip stays very busy this time of year hauling the reindeer to many events in Nebraska. His first event for the holiday season was in Grant on November 15. He has 28 total appearances scheduled before Christmas, with six in one week. Everywhere Flip and his reindeer go, large crowds gather.

“A comment I hear a lot is how small the reindeer are. Most people think they are bigger. Reindeer have thicker, rounder bodies, shorter legs and really big antlers,” he said. “Reindeer are the only deer species in which the females also grow antlers. In fact, the bulls shed their antlers before the Christmas season.”

Flip feeds his reindeer alfalfa and a special grain.

“They are picky eaters. In the warm months, I have AC in my barn for them as they have two layers of hair, and they

can't handle high temps. They have to be wormed once a month for parasites, as well,” he said.

Flip loves being involved with children and seeing them connect with animals. In fact, he built a large barn with several rooms upstairs for special needs kids, cancer patients in recovery and their families to come stay and interact with his animals, including the reindeer, zebras, camels, llamas, alpacas, bison, elk, water buffalo, emus, goats and sheep. He has a USDA Class "C" exhibitors permit which gives him the ability to have the animals.

Several sponsors have made it possible for the reindeer to come to Arnold, including Pinnacle Bank, Coleman Storage & Rentals, 1st State Insurance, Mills Hardware, and Larreau Construction, Inc. Their appearance will be interesting and fun for both kids and adults.

It's true!

“Reindeer make a clicking sound when they walk, and not just when up on a housetop. Tendons snap over sesamoid bones in their feet, and that's what makes the click. Experts think the clicking helps the members of a herd stay in contact, especially in snowstorms or, say, when it's foggy.