

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2016

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 50 CENTS

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 23

Community Foundation Holds Annual Fundraiser



Great Plains Communications was the 2016 business recipient of the Arnold Community Foundation philanthropic award. Pictured from left are: Doug Engleman, presenter Gary Blevins, Josh Flint, Bruce McConnell and Ian Taylor. (Lana Cool photos)

Philanthropic Awards Presented

Some 220 people attended Saturday evening's annual Arnold Community Foundation fundraiser at the community center, enjoying a social hour, meal, presentation of awards and auction. Board member Carolyn Bowers said there were 60 live and 52 silent auction items donated by businesses and individuals this year. The auctions raised close to \$50,000.00 that will go into the community's savings account to benefit many projects in Arnold.

Every year the foundation gives an award to a business in town that has demonstrated commitment and pride to the Arnold area.

Great Plains Communications is the 2016 recipient.

Presenter Gary Blevins read the following before the award was presented:

"Great Plains Communications is the largest privately owned telecommunications provider in Nebraska and serves over 92 communities in the state.

Great Plains has been a generous and an important partner of Arnold's community projects and endeavors for many years. A champion for community growth, Great Plains has contributed significant monetary donations including \$30,000.00 to this very building back in 2005.

Great Plains Communications believes in long-term community investment for future generations. They were instrumental in the start-up of the Arnold Community Foundation, awarding Arnold and Callaway each a matching grant of \$25,000 to kick-start these very important organizations for both us and our friends and partners in Callaway.

The generosity of Great Plains Communications reaches far and wide. Other benefactors include: The Rialto Theatre, Arnold Chamber, Devil's Den Bike Rally, River Battle, Booster Club and the Chili Cook-Off. They have also supported



Nancy and Ron Cool were the recipients of the Arnold Community Foundation 2016 individual philanthropic award.

area organizations such as Custer Campus in Broken Bow and the Custer County Foundation.

The monetary donations are important, but their investment into our communities and schools through employment and personnel is just as important. Great Plains has over 220 employees, and a majority of them live and work in the communities that they serve. Their employees donate thousands of hours as firefighters, paramedics, mentors, board members, and to other community-based activities. You can always count on Great Plains to show up at a community project supplying labor and equipment to make the project go

smoothly. Organizations like the golf course have benefited from their equipment and expertise from current and past employees.

This is a company that is committed to the sustainability and advancement of rural Nebraska and they donate close to 10 percent of their income to support their communities.

It gives the Arnold Community Foundation great pleasure to present Great Plains Communications with the 2016 Outstanding Philanthropy Award.

Ron and Nancy Cool were recipients of the individual award. Presenter Becky Dailey read the following before presenting this award:

Continued on page 2.

Improvements Would Save Energy and Money at Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wastewater treatment plants aren't the most interesting topic in the world, but an intern from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln made a strong case for the village to improve energy efficiency at the Arnold plant at last week's village board meeting.

David Hansen, who is interning with UNL's Partners in Pollution Prevention program and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, assessed energy use at the Arnold wastewater treatment facility during the summer of 2016. He said the goal of the project is to identify and quantify opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and operating cost savings.

Cay Ewoldt, section supervisor at the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and Bruce Hauschild and Aaron Miller with the Nebraska Energy Office also attended the meeting.

Hansen's assessment revealed that at 45 percent of design capacity, the equipment is oversized for Arnold's plant. UNL has developed benchmarking metric for Nebraska wastewater plants, and Arnold's treatment plant is high on the benchmark compared to other plants.

He recommended repairing the digester blower piping and installing Variable Frequency Drives (VFD), which adjusts the frequency of power delivered to the motor. This would reduce energy usage and startup demand and help reduce demand charges.

A case study of Ogallala's VFDS showed that after an electric sub-meter was installed on an influent pump for two weeks, energy usage was reduced by 50 percent.

The capital investment to install a VFD would be approximately \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00, including engineering fees, labor and the VFD. The estimated energy savings would be 15,000 to 30,000 kwh yearly. The estimated cost savings would be \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 yearly.

He said the lifetime expectancy for the pump long outlasts the payback periods. He added that the Nebraska Energy Office offers a 1 percent loan for qualified energy efficiency upgrades.

His recommendations summary also included maintaining a height of close to 15 feet of water in the sludge digester and for the village to consider renewable energy.

The incentives for the village to make these changes include cost and energy savings, with lower utility usage reducing the financial burden on Arnold; incentive programs, including the 1 percent loan for qualified energy efficiency upgrades, and an improved public image, as Arnold will be seen as a community that acts responsibility towards the environment.

Board members thanked Hansen for his presentation, and his recommendations will be discussed at a later date.

OCC Organizer Realizes Long-Time Dream Shoeboxes Packed Reach All-Time High

On Sunday, Nov. 13, Arnold Principal Joel Morgan unlocked the door and got out of the way as a small army of volunteers filed into the gym to set up for the community packing party for Operation Christmas Child. They set up tables, carried in shoeboxes and bags of items, wrapped soap inside washcloths and packed them in plastic bags, folded shoeboxes and organized the goodies on the tables.

"We wouldn't be ready for the party if this group of people didn't show up to do the groundwork. Their work makes the next day run smoothly," said OCC organizer Melody Jennings.

Monday morning the fun began as soon as school started. Students went to the wrestling room where Shavonne Schacher hosted a "pre-packing" party. There, the kids enjoyed juice and popcorn popped by Clay Mohr, while watching a short video explaining how to pack a shoe box. This step helped prepare the children to know what to expect when they stepped into the gym.

Younger students were paired with older students who helped them work their way along the tables choosing the things they wanted to pack in their boxes. Each child is able to pack two or three boxes during their time in the gym. Some flew along the tables filling boxes quickly, while other students took their time choosing just the perfect items for their gift. Melody said it's interest-



Devin Peterson (left) helps Jett Morgan pick out items for his shoebox during the Operation Christmas Child packing party held at the school last week. Also pictured are adult volunteers (in background) Pam Smith and Holly Tullis. (Leta Connell photo)

ing to see the difference in kids.

Heather Hagler's Home Grown Kids day care also came to fill shoebox gifts, along with Arnold residents who filtered into the gym throughout the day. Grandparents and parents came to watch, take pictures and pack boxes along with their

favorite students.

The Red Hat ladies received a special invitation to join the day's activity, and Ila Dailey came all decked out in her purple and red. Melody commented that doing things for children is a natural for this former Arnold teacher.

Other Red Hat ladies who

filled shoeboxes included Sue Beshaler and Dorothy Larreau. Melody said there may have been others, but she didn't see them because the gym was so busy.

Melody said people are always interested to know what the final tally was, and this year the community packed 685—an all time high.

"This was the fulfillment of a years-long dream of mine," she said. "I have hoped that we could send a box for every Arnold resident for a long time because I think it's such a good testimony of the generous and kind-hearted people who live in Arnold. This year 685 children will be receiving a Christmas gift from our little town in the Sandhills of Nebraska. How cool is that?"

This number reflects the 500 boxes packed at school on Monday, plus 185 from individuals that Melody and husband Irv personally delivered or know that were delivered. Others may have dropped off shoeboxes that the Jennings know nothing about.

"Obviously, this couldn't happen if people weren't so generous and cooperative," said Melody. "I think it's a wonderful thing to allow our students the opportunity to prepare a gift for other children they will never meet. We owe our school a debt of gratitude for hosting this event and for helping get the word out to all the students' families. I have no idea how many other residents came to pack boxes, but they filtered in all day long, did their good deed and left quietly. There were lots of volunteers who gave their time to help at the individual tables throughout the day. And at the end of a long day, we are thankful for those who show up to help with the clean up and loading the cartons into the trailer."

Continued on page 2.