

Happy Thanksgiving

There is always something for which to be thankful.

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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\$47,000 Raised at ACFF’s Annual Fundraising and Auction Event

2019 Philanthropy awards presented

Over 200 people turned out for the Arnold Community Foundation Fund (ACFF) dinner and fundraiser last Saturday night at the community center. A total of \$47,000.00 was raised to help local entities continue to make improvements and to grow the community’s savings account. The event is supported by area businesses that donate for both the live and silent auction.

ACFF board member Shane Cool presented the Individual Philanthropist of the Year award. In his introduction, Shane said, in part, “Each year, the Arnold Community Foundation honors an outstanding individual in our community. We come together to recognize someone whose contributions impact our community today

as well as far into the future. Tonight’s recipient is a visionary. This individual had a dream for Arnold that emerged from a pile of rubble decades ago. We have watched the birth and evolution of this special dream over the past several years as the result of countless resources and a steadfast commitment.

“In 1977, Arnold’s beloved Rialto Theatre was abandoned. For 20 years it sat vacant in the center of mainstreet, rapidly deteriorating.

“On December 31, 1996, a sheriff’s auction was held on the steps of the Custer County Courthouse. Among the parcels being sold was the Arnold Theatre property. Long-time resident Sue Beshaler had a vision to restore the Rialto. She said,

‘Decaying buildings are a disgrace to the community, and anything that can be offered to our youth increases the value of our town.’

“Visionary Sue Beshaler was the high cash bidder, purchasing the property on behalf of a non-profit foundation.

“Crews began removing rubble from the building and the restoration process began. Fundraising launched for a new roof and numerous improvements to follow over the next few decades. Sue’s family and countless community members have assisted in the restoration process. Several plays, activities, parties, and community events have taken place in the restored Rialto Theater. Currently, Arnold is one of the few small towns in



Shane Cool presented the Philanthropist of the Year award to Sue Beshaler at Saturday nights annual ACFF fundraising event.

the nation to offer first-run movies. The Rialto Theatre has become a source of pride for our little community, and tonight we honor Sue Beshaler as our Philanthropist of the Year for having the vision, passion, and commitment to raise a lost treasure of Arnold’s history from rubble.”

In presenting the ACFF Organizational Philanthropist of the

Year Award, ACFF board member Holly Hornung-Remund asked all past and present Rialto Theatre Board members who were present to come forward. She said that over the past nine years, individuals have volunteered an estimated 1,800 hours a year to bring the vision to fruition.

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Photos/Kristi Dvorak

Holding the ACFF Organizational Philanthropist of the Year Award, current Rialto Theatre Board President Mary Becker speaks, as other past and present board members who were present at the ACFF auction (from left) Patty Lamberty, Bob Hough, Sara Buchholz, Kay Lohmiller, Sue Beshaler, and Berni Crow stand to be honored.

Christmas Around Town Is Dec. 4

Santa Claus will be in town on December 4 for the annual Chamber-sponsored Christmas Around Town. There will be live reindeer and special appearances by Mrs. Claus, The Grinch, and Buddy the Elf. Chamber will sponsor their appreciation supper, which is free to the public, and businesses will be extending their hours, offering specials and drawings. The full schedule can be found on page 8 of this issue.

Inside...Arnold’s One-Act Wins Conference



Photo/Debbie Connelly

(From left) Brett Halstead, Alice Swigert, Jake Halstead, Jesse Halstead, Annie Vettel, Custer County Economic Development Director Andrew Ambriz, Lt. Gov Mike Foley, Cheryl Carson, Andrew Tickle, Ashley Rice-Gerlach, Jerad Reimers representing Congressman Adrian Smith’s office, and Allison Goodenow celebrate the opening of a new Arnold business at last Friday’s ribbon cutting at Grazers Bar & Grill. During interview time with the media, Lt. Gov. Foley said, “I’ve been to Arnold five or six times and it’s an amazing community.”

Lt. Gov. returns to Arnold for Ribbon Cutting

By Janet Larreau & Debbie Connelly

Nebraska Lt. Gov. Mike Foley was in town last Friday morning for a ribbon cutting at Grazers Bar & Grill and toured Cloudfire Services, which has expanded.

During his last visit to town

for a ribbon cutting, Foley witnessed first-hand the condition of the former Jim’s Bar one month after a fire destroyed the interior. He was amazed at the transformation of what is now Grazers Bar & Grill. He had a lot of fun touring the building, which is larger now with additions to the west and south sides.

“It’s spick and span and absolutely gorgeous,” he said. “I saw how devastating it was. I know it can be depressing to a community. I’m completely stunned at all the hard work that went into this investment.”

During the tour, Foley repeatedly said, “Thank you.” When asked why he was thanking owners Annie Vettel and Jesse

Halstead, he responded with, “A lot of hard work was put into this instead of just closing the door. It is so beneficial to not only Arnold, but the state of Nebraska. Grazers is an extraordinary gift to Arnold and beyond.”

After tours of both Grazers and Cloudfire, the Lt. Gov. was treated to a meal at Grazers.

“I heard the food was good, and I’ll get a chance to try it later. I love that the beef is locally grown and I’ll get the taste of Nebraska.”

The ribbon cuttings and tours are organized by AEDC Director Cheryl Carson.