

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2017

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Shavonne Schacher helps her daughter, Emery (out of view), pick out school supplies for Emery's Operation Christmas Child box. Also pictured are students Shane Gibson and Corrie Luera, who are also looking over the selection of supplies. (Sentinel photo)

A Bumper Crop

677 Shoeboxes Packed for Children Around The World

A wonderful thing happened on November 16, when students and Arnold residents met and then surpassed the goal set by the pastors for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. Because they were concerned that people would be suffering from 'donor fatigue' caused by the high number of requests for help as a result of the natu-

ral disasters in the U.S. this year, the Arnold Ministerial Association decided to lower the goal from last year's 500 boxes to 300 this year. But they misjudged the generosity of Arnold people.

"Donations kept coming in, and students kept packing until we ran out of stuff!" said OCC coordinator Melody Jennings.

Twenty volunteers helped throughout the day by keeping the tables filled with supplies, answering questions, helping children find just the right items to put in their gift boxes, and finally, wrapping it up with rubberbands.

The Homegrown Kids Day-care brought their children to

pack boxes, as well as other parents who brought in their children to help. Some dropped off shoeboxes they had filled at home. One generous and ambitious family packed 206 boxes on their own. Over 400 boxes were packed at the school, so the final total of gifts for needy children sent by Arnold folks was 677 boxes this year. Not bad at all!

"We can be grateful that God has blessed us so abundantly that we are able to share with those less fortunate than ourselves in this way. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way," said Jennings.

50 Years of Dreaming Results in Actual Published Book

By Pepper Werner

As a young girl, Karen Hough was a reader and artist. She drew pictures of horses that the teacher hung all around the classroom. Her former classmates remember that most about her.

Her first children's book was written when she was 14. Karen's love of horses was always at the forefront and at 17, she was hired by Ray and Lois Baker to ride colts. Part of her job was to help with laundry, dishes and tuck their children into bed. She read to the children every night and felt inspired to write children's books for them. Out of this was born "Ralph the Dragon" "Cat in My Car" and "Joe the Bullrider."

After Karen married, she wrote "Mark the Spark and Basketball Team," "Adventures of Smokey the Horse" and "Toby the Dog," a series based on her real dog when she was ten years old.

One of her favorite western writers is Will James. Hough describes him as a "real" cowboy that lived the western lifestyle. His words were magic when it came to describing horses and their movements. Other favorites are Kipling and Dr. Suess - authors that could make the words dance and paint pictures that could make her laugh and cry.

Karen describes her writing as "story poems." There is a definite rhythm and cadence that moves with her words. Her hope is that the reader will find reading easier when they un-

derstand that words have rhythm and just like a song, poetry has cadence.

Fifty years have passed from her first writing attempt to her first publication, and she is nowhere close to stopping. Karen still has all of her stories, poems and writings. Many have undergone edits and changes to fit with the times and get the point across.

Hough said, "The things that I wrote when I was 17 weren't as correctly worded for children as the modified version that I have today. I don't want to scare the children with my "Ralph the Dragon" story. I edit about every ten years to 'soften the edges.'"

The hope for her first self-published book, "Christmas ABCs," is to spread the word of Christ to children. It is a simple version of the story of Christ and uses the story poem format to make the point easy for children to relate to. The illustrations that Hough drew, are colorful and will keep the attention of the children. Karen considers this book to be the first fruits, meaning that 100 percent of the proceeds of the first and second publications are donated to Voice of the Martyrs. She asks for a \$10.00 donation and checks are made directly to the organization.

Four years ago, Karen's daughter, Lacy, sent her a poem that she had found on the internet. It was bad: A conglomeration of donkeys, cows and straw. Hough wanted a Christmas Story that pointed to Jesus

so she wrote a poem with this in mind for her grandchildren. It then transformed into a Christmas program at the church, a Christmas letter for family and friends and then a book. Each time it had to be rewritten to fit the need.

Hough donated 50 books to Operation Christmas Child in hopes that the story of Christ would spread throughout the world. If a local child receives more than one book, perhaps they will pass it on to continue sharing. Judy and Melody at Good News donated funding so that each child could have their own copy of the book.

Karen hopes that the young readers will have a better understanding of the numerous names that referred to Jesus-Christ, Immanuel, King, Messiah, and Prince of Peace. There are references on each page that hopefully guide the reader to the real book, the Bible. The magic of her written book is to draw children to the Bible where the detailed stories can be read. Read the book and send it on - spread the message.

As for Karen's future plans, she hopes to have at least two more books published: "Mark the Spark and the Basketball Team," another children's book, and an adult book, "Can God Write a Book? The 365 reasons to believe that He can." Karen even has a blog on the latter - cangodwriteabook.com.

After a few hurdles - a bankrupt publisher just as the book was being put on the website, illustrations that she wasn't

Silent Auction Part of Christmas Around Town

Several events are planned for the Chamber-sponsored Christmas Around Town set for this Saturday, December 2. Two of the events - a cake decorating contest and silent auction - will be new, with all proceeds going to the Rialto Theatre.

Sponsored by Arnold Chamber, the contest and auction will be held at the community center on December 2. The silent auction begins at 3:00 p.m. and will end at 6:30 p.m. Some of the items donated up to Wednesday of last week include: Gift certificate for a pizza at Mighty Mart, \$40.00 off grooming or boarding fee at Sal's Dog Grooming and Paw-some Hotel, glass bowl, books, air fryer, new subscription to *The Arnold Sentinel*, Arnold, Nebraska mugs, hair products, Mary Kay products, Milwaukee 1/2 inch hammer drill/driver set, Milwaukee cordless 2 speed grease gun kit, food basket, SORC sweatshirt, SORC t-shirts, SORC mug, Dotterra Oils gift basket, gift certificate for a 30 minute massage at Touch of Grace Massage Therapy, home-grown potatoes, Precious Moments dolls (used), picture frames, a cookbook, beautiful wreaths, and a \$25.00 gift certificate for a conceal and carry

class.

Cakes entered in the cake decorating contest will also be on the silent auction.

Organizer Patty Lamberty said items for the silent auction can be donated up to the day of the auction. To donate an auction item, or to obtain rules for the cake decorating contest, contact Patty at 308-520-4495.

Other Events

Several businesses are offering extended hours, specials and drawings throughout the day.

Kids are invited to see the free movie "Trolls" at 3:00 p.m., at the Rialto Theatre, where free childcare will be provided by National Honor Society and the Junior Honor Society during the movie.

Santa's visit will be from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the community center. Chamber's annual appreciation soup and sandwich supper, which is free to the public, will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., also at the community center.

Shoppers will have the opportunity to enter drawings for Chamber Bucks.

The day will end with a community candlelight service at Last Call Ministries from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

One-Act Places 3rd at MNAC Competition

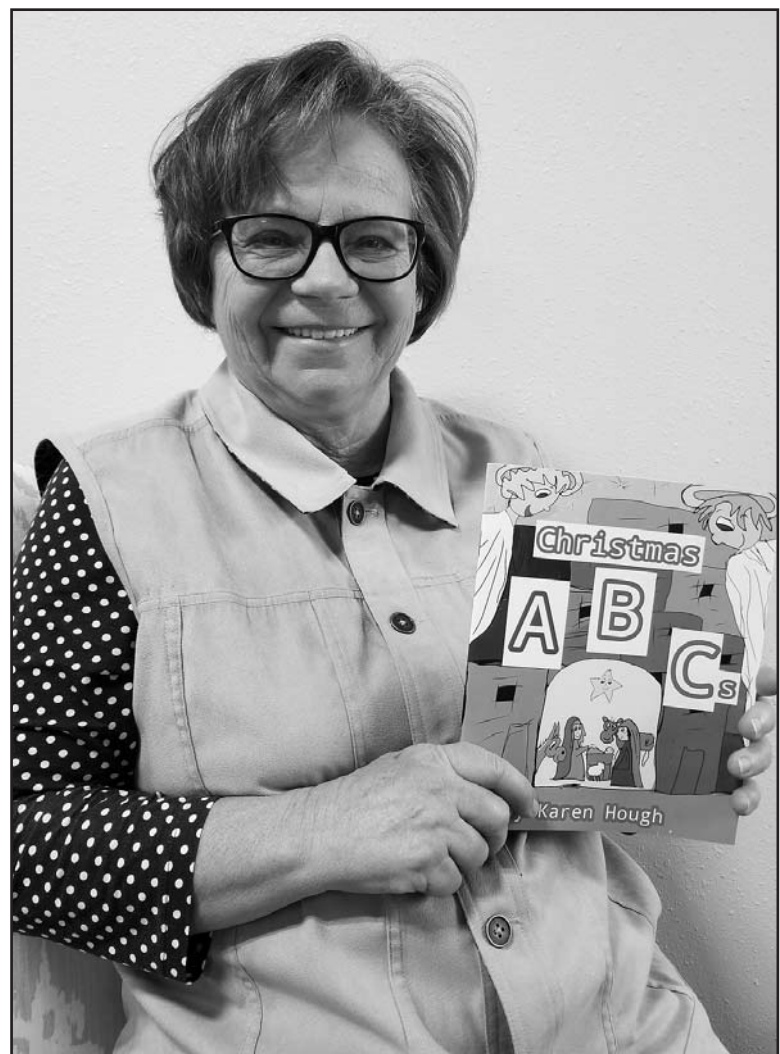
By Berni Crow
One-Act Coach

Following an extremely busy week that allowed the team to get in one good practice, we were extremely pleased to bring home a 3rd place trophy for the MNAC play production. Finding the extra time to practice was difficult. However, like everything else these students do, they worked hard and managed to put together an amazing performance despite the limited practice time. The cast and crew are to be commended for their efforts, and made their directors proud once more. As the saying goes, "If you want things to get done, ask the busiest people."

One of the biggest hurdles we had that day was working on a stage much smaller than the other stages we've been on. The kids made adjustments and it all worked out well. Thanksgiving vacation was a needed break, but again it's

made it difficult to find more than one time to practice, so we will enter district competition with only one practice under our belt since last Tuesday. I have confidence that these hard-working crew and cast members will perform their best yet again.

MNAC 1st place honors went to Callaway, with Ansley receiving 2nd, and Arnold's "Under Jekyll's Hyde" receiving 3rd place. Brady also had a very competitive play. Other teams present were Litchfield, Anselmo-Merna and Sargent. Outstanding cast members for Arnold were: Shaylee Jones, Tatum Cool and Jarret Buchholz. Only one other team received three outstanding actor awards, with the other schools receiving only one or two each. The judges have a very tough job choosing these prestigious awards. Our team alone has many students who deserve this honor.



Karen Hough displays her book titled "Christmas ABCs" that was recently published. (Sentinel photo)

happy with that caused her to make her own and the passing of time - the book is now in the

hands of children, her ultimate goal.