

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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## Principal Morgan Takes The Plunge

By Leta Connell

A new school year began and a new quarter goal was set. Mrs. Moninger, the school librarian, and Principal Joel Morgan decided to up the stakes from last year's Accelerated Reader goal and challenge all students to collectively achieve 3,500 points in the first quarter. This was an increase of 1,000 points from last year, allowing Mr. Morgan a feeling of complete confidence the goal would be unattainable. However, if he was wrong and the students came through, a trip to the Arnold Recreation Area for a jump in the lake would be his fate. Would the students at Arnold Public Schools be up for the challenge? They answered with a resounding “YES”!

Mrs. Moninger tallied points each week and updated the total on an AR Plunge bulletin board upstairs in the school. Halfway through the first quarter, students had only earned 1,280 points - not even halfway to the goal. With one week left, the total had climbed to 2,865 points. Students not only buckled down and earned the 635 points to meet the goal, but also surpassed it by 312 points. With a total of 3,812 points, the announcement was made and

plans began for Mr. Morgan's “plunge day”.

On Tuesday, October 31 at 3:00—amid snow, ice and 29-degree temperatures—students and staff were loaded onto buses and taken to the Arnold Recreation Area. Mr. Morgan had sent out tweets and updates throughout the day via social media as he prepared to make good on his promise. Following along with the updates, several community members showed up to join school staff and students at the lake to watch the event unfold. Dressed in a buffalo costume, as the Bobcats would take on the Elm Creek Buffaloes later that day in the second round of football playoffs, the countdown began. With the crowd chanting, “JUMP, JUMP, JUMP” Mr. Morgan took a running leap off of the dock into the freezing cold water. Since students went the extra mile, Mr. Morgan decided he would too, and jumped in for a second chilly swim.

Mrs. Moninger and Mr. Morgan have already started making plans for next year's challenge. You can bet whatever they come up with will be well worth the wait.



Dressed in a buffalo costume, Arnold Principal Joel Morgan jumps into the very chilly Arnold Recreation Area lake last week and emerges from the water, after APS students achieved what was thought to be an unachievable AR goal. (Julie Mohr and Leta Connell photos)

## Close to 200 Women Enjoy Chamber Housing Tour



Tour guests, with hostess Ann Vettel (far right) gather around the island in the home of Jesse Halstead during Saturday's Chamber sponsored housing tour. This remodeled home was one of five beautiful houses and a business in progress featured on the tour. (Tammy Weinman photo)

The community center was packed Saturday at noon, as close to 200 women gathered there to enjoy a lunch of donated salads and desserts before going on the Chamber sponsored housing tour.

With ticket holders coming from several area communities, Chamber took the opportunity to promote Arnold's local businesses this year. Coupon flyers, featuring 16 local businesses, were placed at each seating area. The businesses were offering wine and cheese tasting, demos of new products, a percentage off products and services, and other incentives to draw the women in to their establishment. Business displays were also set up in the building's meeting room. Cheryl Carson, one of the main organizers of the event, spoke to the crowd about each business, sharing a bit more information.

"People seemed to be interested in what the businesses were offering, and there were only about 15 flyers left out of the 150 printed. The rest were taken out the door. Businesses were also very generous with door prizes this year," she said.

The women were divided into five groups for the tour of five homes and one business in progress. Opening their homes were Zach and Heather Hagler, Ryan and Cindy Tullis, Frank and Sue Hauser, Kris and Jenni Joedeman and Jesse Halstead. This was a very eclectic tour, with two large pre-fab country homes with million dollar views, a newer kid friendly home with an open floor plan, and total remodels of an established home with mature trees and a historic two story. Guests enjoyed the different decorating styles and the small details that were put into each home.

"Every house was so different and showed their personality and what is important to them," said one tour participant.

Also on the tour was the 1914 building on Arnold's main street that will house BrewBakers Coffee House and Gifts. Owner Jodi Carlson opened the doors to guests, showing merchandise and telling guests about her journey and what is to come after the building is renovated.

## Vietnam Vet Battles Cancer Caused By Agent Orange

By Darlene Rimpley

As Veterans Day approaches, this article is a thank you to all who served.

Kent DeLosh was born in the Arnold hospital in 1948, graduated from Arnold High school in 1966, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in March of 1967. He went off to Vietnam to fight, and came home with a hidden illness.

Kent was first stationed in Ft. Bliss, Texas, for his basic training and then went to Fort Sam, Houston for his advanced training to become a combat medic. On December 7, 1967, he was sent to Vietnam. He remembers the date specifically, because of the significance to another date in history.

When Kent first arrived in Nam, he lived in a tent, but the fun began when he went to the field. He and two of his buddies had to build their bunker which would become their home - until they had to move to another site.

Vietnam is a land of jungles and is very hot. Kent said the only time it was a little cool was the monsoon season. When they spotted a cloud, they grabbed their soap, took off their shirt, and when it started raining, they soaked up really good. The first shower would stop, and they would wait for

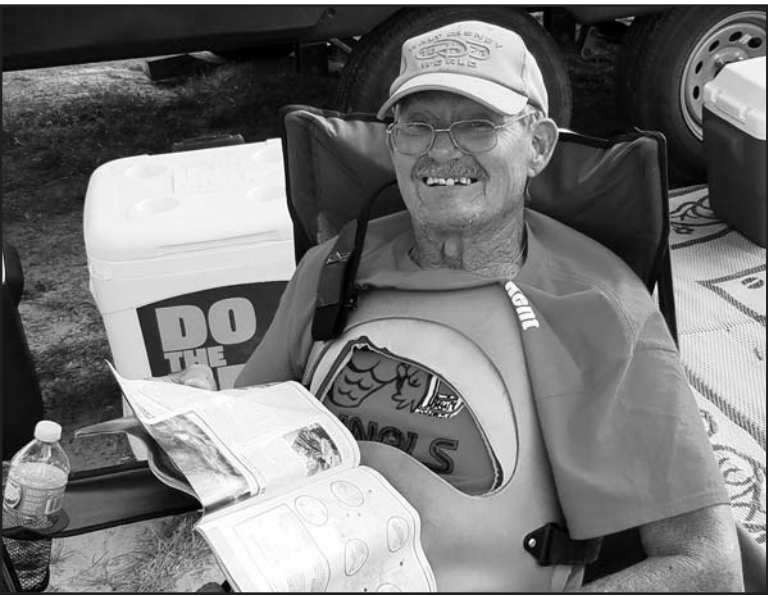
the next cloud, soap up their hair and rinse off. Then they would wait for the sun to dry themselves and their pants.

He also recalls that there were lots of insects and snakes, as well as alligators, tigers and elephants - to name some of the wildlife.

The army located their operation bases on the top of a hill, which would allow soldiers to dig a hole for the bunker. They then placed sandbags around the hole, and if they were fortunate enough to have some metal, they would place it on top of the sandbags to make a roof. Quite often, they would have to move their camp and climb to another hill top. When they got there, they had to dig a bunker for their big gun, and their bunker again.

The food came in boxes of small cans that were dropped in by helicopter. One box might be peaches, another pound cake, and so on. When each soldier picked his box up, he couldn't tell what was in it because it was turned upside down. There was a lot of trading when the boxes were opened.

Kent told about one special meal they made with cheese and a spicy sauce. The put a cracker in a can, then cheese and then sauce, and continue



One of Kent DeLosh's favorite pastimes is camping with family. The vet has battled cancer since 2005 - a result of time served in Vietnam. (Courtesy photo)



Kent enlisted in the army in 1967. (Courtesy photo)

the layers until the can was full. They would then light a little C-4 under the can to heat it up and have a pizza.

Kent was the only medic in camp, which could be anywhere from 50 to 100 men. He treated any and everything. One occasion that sticks in his mind was when a young soldier—who had only been in their camp for a couple days—died in his arms. He didn't

even know him.

Medics carried a .45, but Kent was wise. He went against the rules and got a grenade launcher. A colonel came up to Kent and told him he wanted to speak to him. When in the field, they didn't have to salute, but Kent, who thought he knew what the colonel wanted, said, "Yes, Sir." He was told, "You know what I want, get it!" Kent got the grenade launcher, and

he was handed a .45.

Kent said they could hear mortar fire in camp all the time and always wondered when it might get close enough to hit them. Kent remembers a time when they were staying on alert, and he went three days and two nights without any sleep.

The year 1968 was the biggest Tet Offensive of the war. Unknown to the American troops, they were in serious danger - even when they were not being fired on. The enemy was spraying Agent Orange in the air, and

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