



The Arnold Sentinel

Serving the
South Loup River Valley

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Dallas Werner gets a bear hug from Santa before making way for the next child. Dallas, who is 2 and a new resident to the area with his parents, asked for a football. (Janet Larreau photos)



An out-of-town group of girls enjoy looking over items at Farmhouse Antiques.



Virginia Steele and husband Ed go through the free soup and sandwich line at the community center, with high school volunteers Ashton Weinman and Jennifer Barraza dishing up the soup.

Christmas Around Town Draws Good Crowds

A beautiful day drew not only residents, but out-of-town shoppers to Arnold on Saturday for the annual Chamber-sponsored Christmas Around Town.

Storefront business owners reported that sales exceeded that

of previous years.

"I've almost sold out of all of my throws!" said Kim Beshaler, owner of Farmhouse Antiques.

Traci Peterson of Flower Girl Floral & Boutique said she was very happy with the turn out

and sales in her store. Dena Mills of Mills Hardware said she saw a lot of out-of-town faces, which was the best part of the day.

The 20-some crafters who were set up in three locations

around town also said they had a good day.

Kids enjoyed viewing "The Lego Movie" free of charge in the afternoon, with childcare provided by the National Honor Society and NJHS.

There was a long line of kids and their parents waiting for a chance to visit with Santa at the community center, and 250-plus people turned out for the free Chamber supper, with lots of volunteers helping out.

Chamber Seeking New Active Members

Regular Meeting Time Changed

Arnold Chamber is in need of some "new blood" and will be making a change to its regularly scheduled meetings in hopes of drawing a younger crowd to its monthly meetings.

For several years now, Chamber has held their monthly meetings during the lunch hour on a rotating schedule that allows members to eat while they meet at different establishments. In January, this will all change.

At the regular meeting held last Wednesday, members decided to change things up and meet the fourth Monday night of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the community center meeting room.

"We're hoping this time will allow more young people who work out of town to attend,"

said Dena Mills, who has been elected to serve as president of the organization in 2016.

To kick off the new year, the January 25 meeting will be held at Triangle Lanes at 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, everyone will be treated to free pizza courtesy of Tiff and Barb Varney of Arnold Funeral Home, and a free game of bowling by Dell and Chyrel Cerny. All future meetings will be held at the community center meeting room.

"At the meeting we were brainstorming ways to get more people involved," said April Tickle, who has served as president in the past and is an active member. "We are running into the same people showing up and doing everything. We need some fresh faces and new ideas.

We hope the new time and location will make it more accessible to those who work out-of-town and can't make the noon meetings."

She said there are different roles members can play, including showing up and giving input and support, or gradually volunteering for different activities they feel they have talent in or can do to organize. Everyone is encouraged to make all meetings, but it is understandable that there are a few people can't make. The main goal is for people to get involved in their community.

Chamber sponsors several community events during the year, including Kegs & Corks in February, the Chili Cook-off in March, garage sales in June, Fourth of July fireworks, the SORC barbecue in August, Fall Festival, Halloween Carnival, Contest and Parade, the housing tour in November and Christmas Around Town.

Officers elected at the December meeting for the upcoming year include: Dena Mills, president; Becky Dailey, vice-president; Margie McDowell, secretary, and Patty Lamberty, treasurer.

Everyone is encouraged to come to the January meeting and enjoy the kick-off party.

Other business:

Chamber will sponsor an appreciation supper for the EMTs and volunteer firemen and their spouses in January. Dena

Mills has volunteered to be in charge. Residents who would like to contribute to the cost of the steaks, or provide a salad or dessert, can call Dena at 308-530-1386.

Members voted to donate \$100.00 to the food pantry to

use as needed.

Christmas Around Town was discussed, and thanks was given in advance to Patty Lamberty and crew for organizing the free appreciation soup and sandwich supper, Chyrel Carson for organizing the craft show, Jeff Cole and boys for setting up, and Jake Gilland, Adam Lucas and Eugene Walker for helping clean up.

Discussion was held on 2016 events and chairpersons.

Cheryl Carson is on the Custer County Tourism Board, and shared information and future possibilities.

The group congratulated Jake Gilland for his award and thanked him for all he does.

Chamber thanked president Peg Scott, vice-president Dena Mills, co-secretaries Kendra Veirs and Tammy Weinman, and treasurer Patty Lamberty for serving in 2015.

FFA Program Discussed at Joint Board Meeting

The Boards of Education of Callaway and Arnold met on December 1 in the Elementary Resource Room in Arnold to discuss the superintendent contract for 2016-17, and the possibility of FFA in Callaway, and if Arnold would have any interest in sharing courses or a program.

The board considered the half-year of experience and performance evaluations of Superintendent Dawn Lewis, and the completion of her doctoral degree. Mutual agreement of a 5 percent increase from last year's contract, given such consideration, was decided. The contract is posted on the website of each school, in compliance with the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act, before the contract can be approved by each board.

Callaway conducted a survey for students in Grades 6-11 to evaluate interest in an Ag/FFA program. Survey results will be shared at the Callaway December board meeting.

There was discussion on the possibilities of sharing an Ag/FFA program. Logistics would need to be considered at more detail if it was felt the Ag/FFA program was a possibility.

There was discussion on FFA program requirements and potential class offerings.

Arnold will conduct a student survey of its own and hopefully share results at the December board meeting.



New Members Inducted Into NHS

Four students were inducted into Arnold's Chapter of the National Honor Society on Thursday, December 3, joining current members Haley Reed, Avery Atkins, Cade Connell and Madison Reed were the 2015-2016 inductees. To be eligible for the NHS, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA on the academic graduation track. Students submit a resume and essay about a leadership position or service activity that the student is proud to have completed. "Arnold's chapter helps organize many local service projects. Membership is both an honor and a commitment," said sponsor Debby Moninger. Pictured are: (back, l-r) Cade Connell, Jasmine Nelson, Tristan Johnson; (front, l-r) Ashton Weinman, Madison Reed, Olivia Furne, Avery Atkins, Morgan Eggleston and Haley Reed. (Tammy Weinman photo)