

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Serving the  
South Loup River Valley

## The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

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### “Christmas Joy”

Dressed as elves, from left, Lydia Connell, Kacey Dvorak, Tatum Cool, Kenna Rogers, Olivia Furne and Jadeyn Bubak perform a tap dance to “Santa Lost His Mojo” at Sunday afternoon’s holiday dance recital presented by the Elite Dance Conservatory. A full house of relatives and friends gathered in the school’s gymnasium to enjoy performances of ballet, tap, jazz and lyrical to festive Christmas music. Some routines performed by the 30 dancers, age 3-16, were beautiful and elegant, some technically impressive and some silly and funny. All were choreographed by instructor Eileen Moser. (Lana Cool photo)

## School Board Approves New Webmaster Position

The Arnold School Board approved a new Webmaster position and a landing system for track events at their regular meeting held on December 9.

First on the agenda was a report by South Loup Activities Director Jarod Rush, on the numbers out for fall sports and the upcoming schedule. A highlight of his report was that the South Loup has won the Great

Plains Communications Video Contest, which includes the whole region, yet again this year. Last spring, SL won \$650.00 and they won another \$650.00 for the fall season.

“It’s a great deal. The volleyball and football teams will split the money. Great Plains has been great for us,” said Rush.

Both Arnold and Callaway gymnasium floors are set to be

refinished, and South Loup Bobcat artwork will be applied at that time. Rush said Callaway has started a committee for their design. The designs chosen will be unique to each school.

#### Action Items

Approval of the superintendent contract for Dawn Lewis for the 2015-16 school year was listed in action items, but the

contract will be decided on at the January meeting. Superintendent Pat Osmond explained that the Superintendent Transparency Act requires advertising of the contract for three days prior to approval. Advertising of the contract was put up on the school’s website to meet the requirement.

Board members approved a new Webmaster position and

compensation for Nicole Badgley. Compensation will be in the amount of \$6,500.00 a year for the year-round position.

“It’s about the most current way to know what’s going on,” said Mr. Osmond. “Paying an individual ensures the web pages will stay current.”

In another action item, the board approved purchasing new pole vault pads at the request of track coach Rick Peterson.

“The current pads are 40 years old,” said Mr. Osmond. “They have been taken care of, but have deteriorated over the years.”

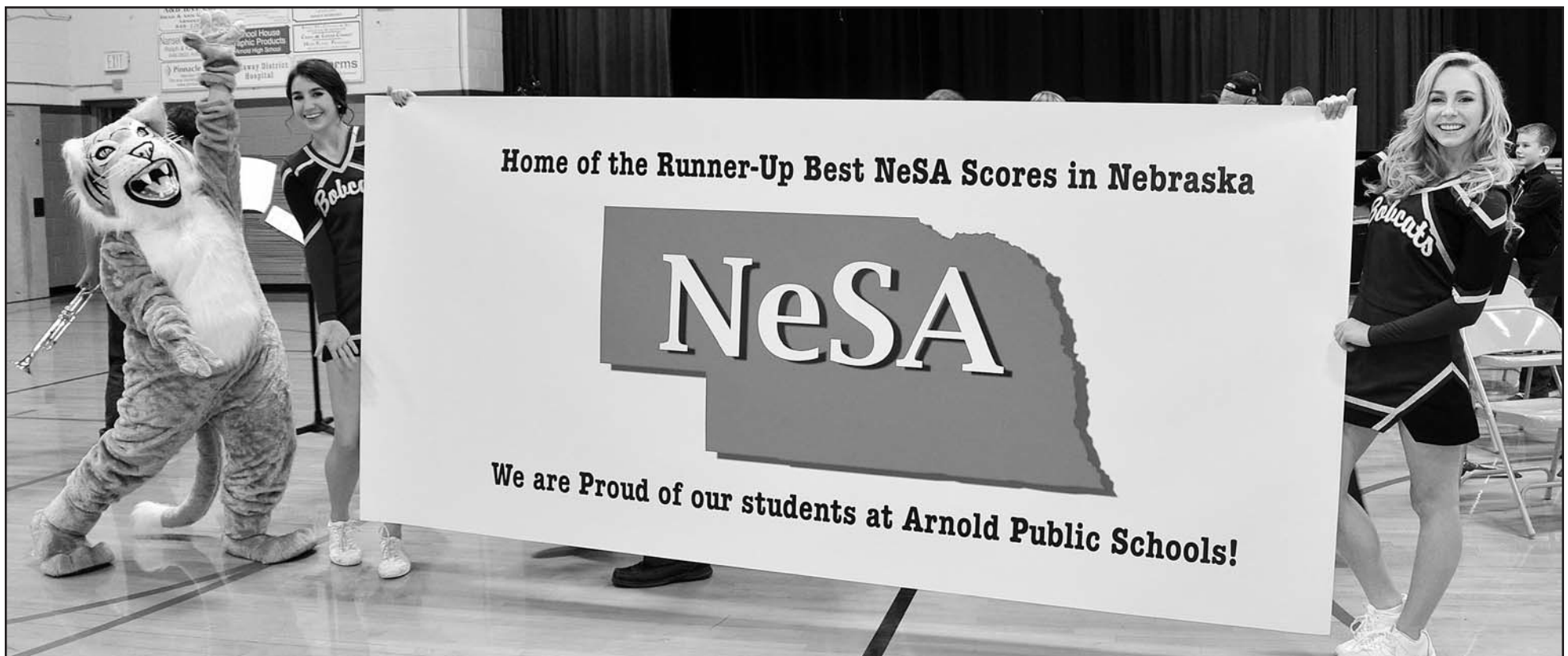
During Principal Dawn Lewis’ report, she said that she is exploring the use of a credit recovery software program for some of Arnold’s students who are struggling with regular classes. She and Ms. Meyer attended a webinar with Odysseyware, one of the leading programs for credit recovery used in Nebraska.

“Rick Moses at NDE shared with me how effective this has been for other schools, and how to shape the courses for students so that we are not out of Rule 10 compliance in offering these when students have failed,” she said.

Teachers are awarding Spirit of the Season awards again this year, as they did last year. Teachers will nominate a student who exemplifies a giving, kind spirit to receive their awards.

Taking into account the very busy schedules of the staff, and low attendance in the past couple of years, Mrs. Lewis has decided to change up how the school is celebrating Christmas. Rather than a staff party, she has offered up a “Rudolph’s Revenge” challenge to teachers.

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The South Loup Bobcat mascot and cheerleaders Claire Beshaler and Grace Magill display a new banner that was presented at a community celebration last Thursday evening. The banner, announcing Arnold Public School’s high test scores, will be prominently displayed in downtown Arnold. (Lana Cool photo)

## High Test Rankings Reason to Celebrate

Last Thursday evening, parents, business owners and community members gathered to honor their students, teachers and staff at Arnold Public Schools. Plans for a celebration were put into action upon the release of the Nebraska State Accountability NeSA standardized test results last month. Of 248 districts in Nebraska:

- Arnold School District is ranked #2 in Reading test scores in the state.
- Arnold Elementary Writing scores are #2 in the state, missing the top spot by .05 of a point.

- Arnold District is #12 in Science - up from #50 last year.
- Arnold District is #30 in Math - up from #82 last year.

“These test results are a tremendous accomplishment,” said Principal Dawn Lewis. “The rankings speak volumes of the quality of our students, teachers and staff at Arnold Public Schools.”

Arnold community members couldn’t agree more. “We are incredibly proud of our school,” said Holly Hornung Re-

mund, owner of Winsome Inn Motel in Arnold. “Their hard work and dedication to excellence is impressive and inspiring.”

The community celebration took place in the school gymnasium following the K-12 music program. Community members presented a congratulatory banner that will be promi-

nently displayed in downtown Arnold and the local Chamber will hang posters in downtown businesses all week to show support and recognition.

For more information about Arnold Public Schools, log on to [www.arnoldpublicschools.org](http://www.arnoldpublicschools.org).