

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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APS Incentive Party



Incentive party students get settled in to watch the movie “Wonder” at the Rialto Theatre, Thursday morning, before ushering in Christmas break. (Pepper Werner photo)

The APS yellow school bus pulled up in front of the Rialto Theatre at 9:00 a.m. last Thursday, loaded with about 70 students who were looking forward to watching the movie

“Wonder” before being let out of school for Christmas break.

Everyone in Grades 6-12 can participate in the incentive party if they have passing grades for the semester, and if

they haven’t missed too much school. This year, fifth graders were invited along, because it is a tradition in Mr. Neth’s class to read the Golden Sower nominated book *Wonder* each year.

No two incentive parties are alike, and this semester, Debby Moninger suggested the idea of attending the movie to Principal Joel Morgan. The school picked up the tab for the movie tickets, and students bought their own concessions, with several people volunteering to take tickets and sell concessions.

“It was good timing, with the fact that Mr. Neth has the kids read the book each year, and the movie is being sponsored by the Arnold Education Association. The movie also gives a message the school wants to send to the students,” said Mr. Morgan, who with Mrs. Moninger and Mr. Neth, enjoyed the movie with the students.

The movie, based on the New York Times bestseller, tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters fifth grade, attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time.

“(Rialto Board President) Mary Becker was very receptive to our request to have the stu-

dents come on a weekday. She had to request a special key showing of the movie,” said Mrs. Moninger.

“Most of the kids liked the movie a lot, and it followed the book fairly closely,” said Mrs. Moninger. “And they have the best seats!”

The fifth graders made two posters, thanking the Rialto Theatre for being invited and selling concessions, and had all of the students attending sign them. The posters were presented to board members Rose Bierman and Mary Becker and volunteers Cindy Urbanovsky, Trish Vickers and Jimi Cole.

The movie will have its last showing at the Rialto this weekend, December 29, 30 and 31.

Early Deadline For Jan. 4 Issue

So staff may enjoy the New Year holiday, the deadline for the January 4 issue will be Friday, December 29, at noon. Earlier submissions of any news or advertising would be most appreciated.

Happy New Year to all of our readers!

Book Donation Honors The Late Barb Varney



Four books have been donated to Finch Memorial Library by the Donor Awareness Committee at CHI Health Good Samaritan, celebrating the life of the late Barb Varney. (Jessica Tickle photo)

Even in death, one must celebrate life. Remembering the good times, great contributions, heartaches, passions, family and friends. Barb Varney had a passion for life, her family and organ donation. She loved to read and help others at every opportunity

and was an avid supporter of CHI Health Good Samaritan in Kearney as well as Nebraska Organ Recovery.

Betsy Collins Clark, Donation Services Specialist with Nebraska Organ Recovery and a member of the Donor Awareness Committee at CHI

Health Good Samaritan stated, “Barb taught us that donation is not just about the recipient, but also about the donor and their family. This truly made an impact on our thought process and changed our approach to donation.”

Barb and Tiff were deter-

mined to follow their son’s wishes with donation, even though the coroner was trying to place some restrictions on the act. They were adamant about making it happen, for their son. Their tenacity didn’t stop there. Following their son’s passing, the two traveled to his college and presented on the importance of organ donation and participated in a donor registry drive. His photo was included on the Donate Life float in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade. One of their daughters even wrote an essay on the importance of organ donation.

The Varney’s sponsored a fundraiser for the Nebraska Organ Recovery and attended the annual donor remembrance ceremony every year to honor their son’s gifts. Barb was a registered donor who donated tissue upon her death, but held a quiet grace about her intent. Collins Clark said she was never loud or boisterous, but was an ever present supporter.

“There were so many things I learned about Barb after her

passing. The baseball player statue that stands in front of the community center in Arnold, which Barb helped design, has a Donate Life pin on the lapel. Her son Tiff’s headstone at the cemetery in Broken Bow is in the shape of the Donate Life emblem. She was passionate, particularly about spreading awareness,” stated Collins Clark.

Barb’s desire was to help other families, spread awareness of organ donation, and widen the circle of all those affected.

As a result of her contributions, in September of this year, members of the Donor Awareness Committee at CHI Health Good Samaritan made a book contribution to the Finch Memorial Library in Arnold, in her honor, with the hope of supporting other families. *Taylor’s Gift*, *The Nicholas Effect*, *ABC’s of Healthy Grieving* and *The Gift that Heals* are all available for checkout at the library. A description of each book can be found on page 2.

New City Park Playground Equipment Coming In 2018

In mid-July, the Village of Arnold was chosen as the winner of two playground bucket swing seats from Sterling West in Gothenburg - a playground equipment supplier that had a Facebook challenge on social media. AEDC director Cheryl Carson shared the challenge on the Arnold Economic Development Facebook page and issued the challenge to the Arnold community to get involved and vote. The town with the most online votes would be the winner and from there a single entry would be chosen from the winning community’s entries, and be the person to accept the seats on behalf of the community. Brandi Corbin was the lucky winner to receive the swings on behalf of Arnold, accompanied by AEDC director Cheryl Carson.

As a result of the win, AEDC Director, Cheryl Carson took another look at the existing equipment of the city park, talked with area parents, day-

care providers and reviewed the former purchases. A parent committee was formed with AEDC to share ideas and discuss needs of the city park, and it was decided that the existing merry-go-round needed to be removed.

“It simply wasn’t safe,” said Carson. “Everyone agreed the equipment that was in place was not appropriate for two- to five-year-olds. It was not sized for the littler ones and didn’t promote safe play.”

At an earlier board meeting, Carson made the suggestion to the village board to have the merry-go-round removed and the board agreed. With help of the Village and local volunteers, the equipment will be removed in spring 2018 and the ground leveled. The addition of the new bucket swings will require an additional frame to be built, bringing the total of available toddler bucket seats up to four. A local resident volunteered to weld the frame,

and help with the placement of the additional frame.

There are additional changes and purchases that are in the works for the park. Previously purchased border left over from the first park improvements back in 2013 will be added to the existing parameter to enlarge the play area. A new merry-go-round will be moved closer to the existing play structure and enclosed inside the border. Rubber mulch will be added along with a scaled down play structure for the smaller children. Themed playhouse structures are also being considered and would be built by the Arnold school wood shop students.

Funding for the project will come from grants, fundraising and public donation. It is estimated that the project will reach \$40,000.00.

“So far we have received grant awards from Custer County Foundation for \$2,000.00 and Farm Credit Services will sup-



The city park will have a new merry-go-round in the spring of 2018 and other new equipment aimed at two- to five-year-olds, thanks to efforts of AEDC Director Cheryl Carson and a committee of residents. (Courtesy photo)

ply workers to help put structures together and in place,” said Carson. “Arnold Rotary is also supporting our project with any help they can provide. Other grant requests are out at this time, but we have not heard back at as of yet.”

She added that if there are any questions, concerns, comments or if anyone wishes to donate toward the project, they can come in and see her at the AEDC office, call or email the office.