

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2016

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## 2016: The Year in Review

How much can a small town and its residents accomplish in a short 365 days? The town of Arnold saw much progress in 2016—mainly in the area of business, where there was expansion, new construction and remodeling and updating of existing buildings. Organizations also continued their important projects to keep the town vital and moving forward.

### JANUARY

The fourth annual Devil's Den Poker Run and Rally brought in \$3,627.30 for its charities, including Team-Mates, the school's SPED department, Out of the Darkness and started a local fund for families in need of support.

UN-L highway paleontologist Shane Tucker and his assistant were uncovering the fossil of a Bison antiquus discovered during the Arnold East Highway Project. The fossil could date back to as much as 40,000 years old.

The effects of a rare 3.5-magnitude earthquake were felt in Arnold and across

Custer County in January.

Eighty-nine trumpeter swans were counted feeding on remnants of dryland corn in a field southwest of Arnold in January. The population of swans in the area is reportedly growing.

Long-time AVFD fire chief Robbi Smith passed his helmet on to Eric Nelson in January.

APS superintendent Dawn Lewis received her doctorate degree and was hooded at ceremonies held at UN-L.

Geri Webb retired as a rural route mail carrier for the Arnold Post Office after 21 years of service.

Duane Bowers was re-elected president of the Arnold School Board.

Principal Joel Morgan reported that enrollment is increasing at APS.

School board members discussed the controversial NSAA transgender policy at its January meeting. The district will vote yes on the Gender at Birth amendment set to be voted on by the NSAA board.

Logan County residents answered the call for food

pantry items to help stock the shelves of the Arnold food pantry.

Virginia Geiser, age 92, was featured in Darlene Rimpley's "They've a Story To Tell."

Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters (NSVFA) president Dell Cerny had the privilege of introducing governor Pete Ricketts at the legislative appreciation breakfast hosted by two Nebraska fire associations, where some important bills relating to rural EMS personnel and firefighters were discussed.

### FEBRUARY

It was reported that the king of Sweden and other Pantera enthusiasts were reading about SORC after a story written by *Sentinel* editor Janet Larreau was included in the Pantera Owners Club of America Profiles magazine.

In a new statewide survey, Nebraskans said they do not need, nor do they want, their tax dollars used to support either charter schools or school vouchers.

After a major snowstorm,



Bob and Jean Flint were very thankful when four families showed up to tackle the drifts of snow preventing the couple from traveling to Jean's pre-operative appointment.

The excavation site of the Bison antiquus near Arnold will be included in the upcoming NET television story "Highway Paleontology."

A new village ordinance will allow bars to stay open until 2:00 a.m.

A private wine and beer garden was set up at the annual Kegs, Corks & Crafts event at the community center, with 18 vendors offering merchandise.

The Arnold Community Foundation awarded a

\$3,500.00 grant to the school to purchase three aeroponic family tower gardens that will enable the school to grow its own produce.

The AVFD added a new diesel pumper truck to its fleet, replacing the old gas model.

### MARCH

Donnell DeLosh was awarded the Fireman of the Year plaque at the fire department's annual awards night. Chris Hough was runner-up. Andrew Tickle received the EMS of the Year award. Rudy Vickers was runner-up. Fifteen year pins were awarded to Eric Nelson and Shelley Smith.

Blake Bierman and Jana Cool Jobman returned home after participating in a ten-day National Study/Travel Seminar conducted by the Nebraska LEAD program.

With regret, the village board accepted the resignation of Roy Bierman as superintendent.

The Red Cross and AVFD will be installing smoke detectors for anyone in town that may need them.

WWII veteran Wayne Cunningham was honored with a certificate and pin for 70 years of continuous membership in American Legion Post 130 of Arnold.

Freshman Jarret Buchholz earned first place in graphic arts at the MNAC art show with his self portrait. Freshman Leighton Bubak won second place at conference with his photograph titled "Movement."

In honor of Youth Art Month, Riata Remund's drawing "The Baby Cardinal" and Anna Coleman's crayon drawing "At the Ranch" are on display at the Nebraska State Capitol.

The annual Chamber sponsored chili cook-off drew 175-plus people to the community center. The 1st place chili award went to the Jim's Bar team of Liz Brown, Jason Wehnes, Amanda Koubek and Blake Brown.

The school board began discussing serving locally raised beef in APS hot lunches.

Echo Pelster of Thrivent Fi-

nancial Services was awarded an LB840 loan and grant to remodel the Arnold Insurance Agency building which she purchased from Joe Bob Atkins.

In the face of cold temperatures and high winds, Kirby Viter was one of the last kids to stick it out at Chamber's annual Easter egg hunt.

Astronomy enthusiast and teacher Derryl Barr visited Arnold to give a Power Point presentation on the upcoming August 21, 2017, solar eclipse. Barr said Arnold will be in the path of totality, drawing thousands to the viewing band area.

A fast moving and furious spring storm moved across Nebraska. Before heading east, the storm dumped several inches of snow on the area, causing problems for ranchers during calving season.

### APRIL

Duane Bowers received the School Board Members of the Year by the NRCSA at the annual spring convention.

Arnold elementary school was selected by the Jan Eric Pusch Foundation as one of six pilot schools in Nebraska to receive a nationally recognized music and integrated arts series titled Music Expressions by Warner Bros. Publications.

Finishing touches were getting underway on the Rotary shelter located on the north side of the Arnold Recreation Area.

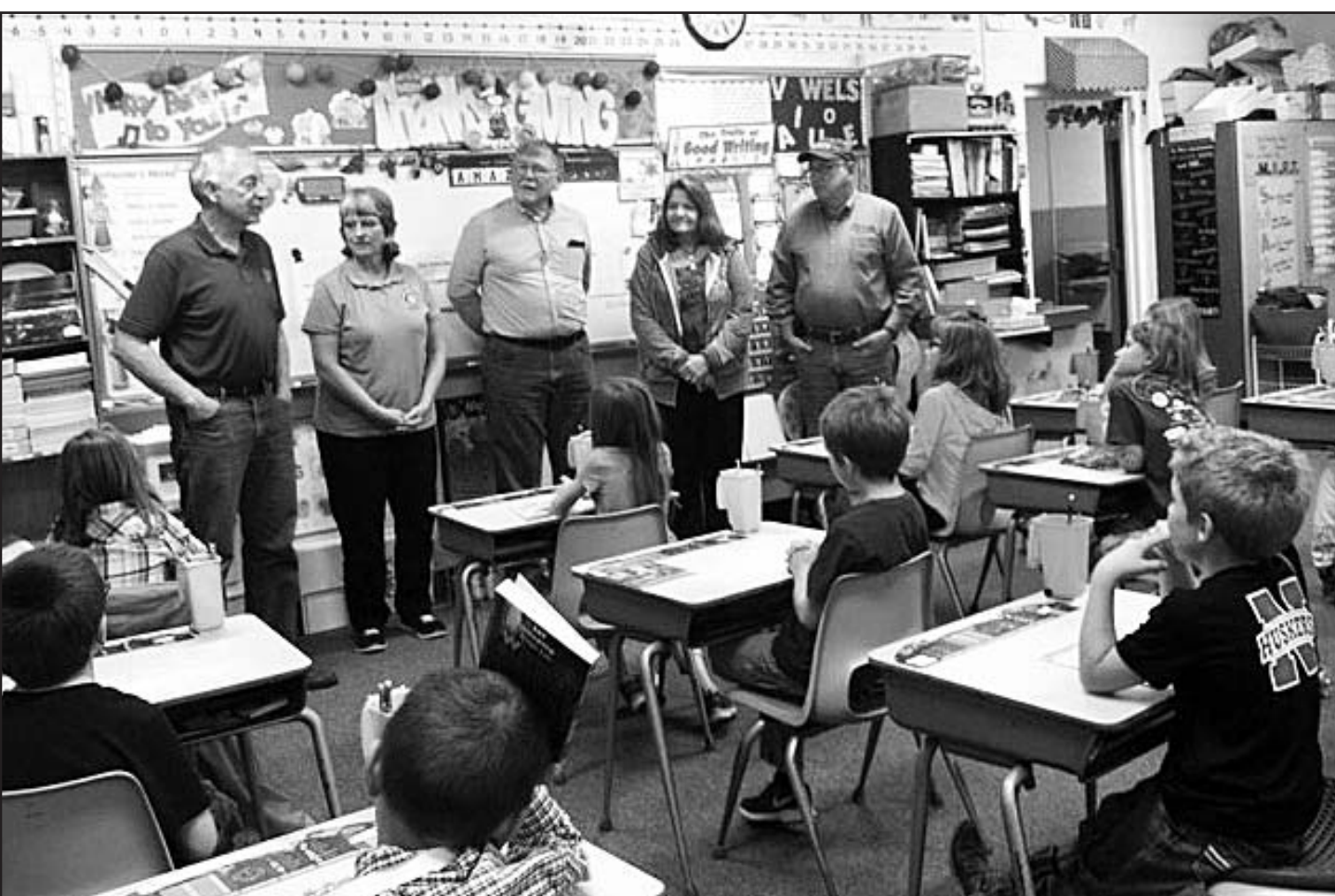
Seventy-five Arnold and Callaway students attended the annual prom held at Callaway.

Wendell Smith was featured in "They've a Story to Tell" written by Darlene Rimpley.

Arnold Insurance Agency held an open house after renovating the former Cardinal Inn as its new insurance location. An estimated 200 people attended the event.

School superintendent Dawn Lewis announced that Nicole (Hauser) Recoy has been hired for the new position of full-time Title I instructor.

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Rotarians (from left) Irv Jennings, Melody Jennings, Bill Williams, Berni Crow and Buzz Lohmiller talk to second grade students during "Book Buddy" day. (Courtesy photo)

## Children and Adults Interact Through Rotary Book Buddy Program

By Berni Crow

Arnold second grade teacher Mrs. Melva Geiser welcomes Rotarians into her class each year to read books with her students. She says that this project is one of her favorite activities throughout the year.

"I enjoy seeing the reactions on student faces as well as the adult faces to the interactive reading between adult and child," said Mrs. Geiser.

It is also rewarding for Mrs. Geiser to listen to the connections made by story text of both student and adult. She added, "The 'barriers' between adult and child vanish during the reading experience, and I enjoy the laughter and seriousness between them."

the Rotarians helping the children understand the many roles our adult community members have. Second grade students and their teacher hear bits and pieces of the visitors' lives—a role in a movie, experiences in Vietnam, broken bones, farm accidents and the patient explanation of text.

"It amazes me how the students interact with the 'older' Rotarian Book Buddies," she said.

Each student is presented a book signed by an Arnold Rotarian. Rotarians who were able to participate this year included Melody and Irving Jennings, Buzz Lohmiller, Bill Williams and Berni Crow.

Members, in turn, enjoyed reading the personally writ-

ten thank-you letters that the second grade students presented to them. Besides seeing how neatly these young children write, it was special for the Rotarians to read their sincere comments.

Students' comments included, "I can't believe you kind of work with my dad," "I enjoyed reading *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Turkey*."

"It was a day I'll never forget," stated Josie L.

Sofie commented to Buzz, "I wonder how hard it was to be a veteran."

"You really broke your wrist, but how?" quizzed Wacey.

Walter told Pastor Bill that he "really appreciated that you gave me a new funny book."

Piper said, "I hope you can come next year if you are a Rotary Book Buddy."

Miranda thanked Melody for the book *Beauty Queen* and replied, "Thank you for helping me with the hard words."

Josie C. told Melody and Kelli in her letter that "Mom giggles when I read *Amelia Bedelia* to her."

Jade thanked Mrs. Crow for reading a wonderful horse book with her.

Evalynn, Gracee, Elijah and Malachi also had fun comments regarding their special day of reading with Rotarians.

The students and Rotarians rounded out the afternoon with cookies and juice.

## Library Sponsoring Weekly Newspaper Quiz

Finch Library is starting a fun weekly newspaper quiz in this issue. It's open to everyone, and there will be prizes.

The first of 14 challenging questions about U.S. Buildings & Landmarks can be found somewhere in this issue. Look for the answer in next week's issue. Questions and answers will continue in each week's issue until April 5 when the last answer is printed. Forms to fill in your answers are available at the

library or at *The Sentinel* office and have been distributed to the junior and senior high school students by Debby Moninger. Please write your name and phone number on the back.

One week after the quiz is over, completed forms that are turned in will be put in a hat for a drawing. One adult and one student winner will choose a book from the top ten best-sellers as their prize.

Join in, test your knowledge and have fun!