

Happy New Year!

2016



Serving the
South Loup River Valley

The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 28

Looking Back on 2015

As we take a look back at stories and people who made the news in 2015, one thing is clear: Arnold continues to stand out as one of the most progressive small towns in Nebraska. The top story this year, was a majority vote by village residents to extend the LB840 Economic Development Plan and 1% sales & use tax for another decade. Following are the organizations, projects and people who made the news, and what Mother Nature had in store for area ranchers and farmers.

ARNOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

In June, a date of September 15 was announced for the economic development plan special election. A Town Hall meeting was held in July that revealed the results of LB 840 Economic Development plan and 1 percent sales tax over the previous 10 years. A resounding “Yes” was heard as residents extended the LB 840 and 1% sales tax by a whopping 90 percent approval rate.

AEDC:

In March a new director was named, Cheryl Carson, replacing the resignation of Sandy Hicks in December of 2014. Carson took over applications for LB840 loans and grants, which helped several businesses start up and expand in 2015.

SWIMMING POOL:

With a lack of lifeguard applicants, the question of the pool opening for the 2015 season was raised in March.

It was announced in April that the pool would open for its 50th year when lifeguards signed on: Claire Beshaler, Grace Magill, Ashton Weinman, Sadie Christensen, Bobbi Barnes and Olivia Furne.

A recap of the tedious process to building the pool that started 50 plus years ago was featured in April.

WEATHER:

Total moisture for 2015 was 24.31 inches, compared to

2014's 25.71 inches; 2013's 16.46 inches and 2012's 8.13 inches. 2011 had 19.56 inches and 2010 had 28.66 inches. Breakdown by month was January - 0.12, compared to 2014's 0; February - 0.43, compared to 2014's .42; March - 0, compared to 2014's 2.01; April - 1.12, compared to 2014's 1.24; May - 4.20, compared to 2014's 1.79; June - 3.01, compared to 2014's 9.85; July - 5.27, compared to 2014's 1.84; August - 3.10, compared to 5.58 inches; September - 2.15, compared to 2014's 1.54; October - 2.05, compared to 2014's .69; November - 1.51, compared to 2014's 0; December - 1.35, compared to 2014's .75.

In January, many believed that a true Nebraska winter set in. Residents on the north end of town watched the snow pile higher and higher for several weeks, as the white stuff continued to blow and drift.

January and February snow led to a dry March and April, but area farmers and ranchers welcomed May moisture that slowed planting of fields, but timely moisture throughout early summer and continuing into fall, made for record crops in the area. Little hail was seen this year also.

Battling days of moisture each week, harvest started in late September and lasted into November for some area farmers.

FEATURE STORIES:

Darlene Rimpley introduced a feature series in January, “They’ve a Story to Tell” on older residents in Arnold. Lois Johnson was the first feature, followed by Jerry Ahrens, Margaret Eastburn, Dot Gast, LV and Ruth Conner, Mildred Smith, Elizabeth Elliott, Bill and Cyd Miller, Jack and Cathy Weber, Bobbie Smith and Jean Shimmin.

A “RareJul” featured Juliet Perri Strasburg, a beautiful baby that’s truly one in a million when she was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease - so rare only 20 cases in the world.

Arnold was featured in the *Nebraska Agriculture and You* magazine in March.

An Arnold landmark, a brick slaughter house, built and used by Frank Koubek for Koubek’s Sanitary Market, was featured as a new “play house” for the Cool girls.

A new Cross mirroring that of the old one in the Tallin Cemetery was a mystery that was solved to why Sven Nelsson’s new headstone appeared in November.

NEW BUSINESS/BUSINESS EXPANSION:

Terence and Shavonne Schacher announced fresh florals for the Valentine’s holiday after the town was left with a void when DownHome Emporium closed.

Jim’s Bar re-opened under new ownership in March, with new owners Jane and Eldon Chestnutt.

In April, it was announced that Traci Weinman Peterson would open a new downtown business, Flower Girl Floral and Boutique in the old DownHome Emporium building. The grand opening was held for the new business in May.

Long-time business owner Mary Carlson closed the Cardinal Inn’s door on September 30. Jim’s Bar then took over the Senior Meals program. Arnold Insurance Agency bought the Cardinal Inn building and began renovation on the building in October. Planned completion is next spring.

Quad Cloud Photography was featured in November. The new business, owned by Andrew Tickle, is drawing customers from a 120-mile radius.

In December, Mills Hardware installed a new electronic sign to enhance their business.

ARNOLD POPULATION:

A “Baby Boom” in Arnold as the town experienced an upsurge in expectant parents. Three Katie’s, Katie Weinman, Katie Blowers and Katie Coleman, were featured for expect-



ing in three consecutive months of each other after giving birth within a week of each other the last time.

PEOPLE:

Amanda Koubek was selected as the RYLA “Gatekeeper” or official registrar in January.

Rotary exchange student Wei Qin Chua was featured in March and volunteered in Arnold’s many activities for the year. Rotary hosted exchange student from Turkey, Mert Aker, in August.

Sgt. Maj. Susan Hunter retired after three decades plus of service.

Laney Badgley was a Triple Crown winner in archery.

Dave and Sally Hilderbrant were awarded tickets to the Antique Road Show in Omaha, where they had unique paintings appraised that they had picked up at an auction several years ago.

Berni Crow’s dream finally came to fruition as her one-room school house with a basement apartment neared completion in August.

An Oregon man reunited a painting with the people of Arnold over the summer.

Blake Bierman was selected as a LEAD fellow in September.

Dell Cerny took over as president of the State Firefighters Association in October.

AWARDS:

It was announced in January that Tatum Cool placed first

and Leighton Bubak placed second in the VFW’s Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest at the District Level. Tatum earned first place at the state level in February and went on to place 10th in the Nation in March.

Mills Hardware ended 2014 as #1 in the state in Milwaukee Tool sales.

Joe Bob Atkins was presented the prestigious Agent of the Year Award at the 66th Annual Convention of the PIA.

In August, the Finch Memorial Library received the official listing as a National Historic Landmark.

Arnold grads, Bob Jensen, Class of 1976, and Dan Keyser, Class of 1975, were inducted into the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame.

FUNDRAISING:

The annual Rotary Pancake Feed, held in February, raised \$1,200.00 for various projects.

The Arnold Walk for Life raised of \$6,000.00 in May.

The Cemetery Website project was awarded a CCF grant for \$2,500.00, in June.

The Arnold Fire Department received life-saving grain bin rescue equipment through a donation from Farm Credit Services of America.

Memorial money was used to update AVFD equipment, including an AED, a portable device that checks the heart

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Local Groups Benefit from Devil’s Den Motorcycle Rally



DDMO members (back, l-r) Dave Crow, Mike Nelson and Berni Crow presented (front, l-r) Rebecca Black and Melissa Marshall of Out of the Darkness with proceeds from the rally. (Courtesy photos)

Three local groups benefited from the Devil’s Den Motorcycle Rally and Poker Run this past summer. Many local businesses and individuals also contributed to this cause. The charities receiving donations were Out of the Darkness, TeamMates and Autism Awareness. In addition, the Arnold cheerleaders were presented a \$400.00 check for their help

during the rally.

The fourth annual Devil’s Den Poker Run and Rally brought in \$3,627.30 for its charities. A check for \$1,000.00 was donated to the local TeamMates organization to help defray some of their expenses. This program has grown to include many students and mentors over the past years, and DDMO realizes the value it has for our

kids.

Items totaling \$977.30 were purchased for the local SPED department at Arnold Public Schools, with the stipulation that all items could be used for any student. The teachers give DDMO a list of items that they’d like to have that are then purchased the programs. Items purchased included Alpha Numeric Gel Pad Set, Tracing



(L-r) Tammy Weinman, Tim Turley, Darren Weinman, Mike Nelson, Berni Crow and Dylan Nelson display items purchased for the school’s SPED program.

Frame Gel Pad, Weighted Turtle, Giant Vibrating Turtle, Image Captor, Magnetic Time Tracker, Weighted Pencil and Weighted Push Path, two special bean-bag chairs, and a sectional chair. Educational games and activities included a Giggle Ball, Magnetos, Froggy Feeding Fun and Children’s Therapy Store. Each item is geared to help students adapt using their particular learning style.

Out of the Darkness is a Suicide Prevention organization, and helps families who’ve had experience with these situations. Besides donating \$650.00 to the North Platte

chapter, the motorcycle organization has started a local fund of \$650.00 for helping families in need of support.

Members of the Devil’s Den Motorcycle Organization include Mike Nelson (President) and wife Kendra, Berni Crow (Vice President) and husband Dave, Heather Hagler (Treasurer) and husband Zach, Tammy and Darren Weinman, Brent and Heidi Kulp and Tim Turley. There are numerous other individuals who also help during the rally. Besides locals, the volunteer group includes members from the Christian Motorcycle Association and Out of the Darkness.