

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 25

## Community gathers to celebrate the season

Chamber’s Annual Christmas event draws hundreds to town



Photo/Debbie Connelly

(From left) Ruby Hagler, Kenzie Connelly, Heather Hagler (holding Reese) and Rae Hagler excitedly, but cautiously approach “Hot Lips,” one of three reindeer that were brought to town by Stable Productions, Wednesday afternoon on the community center’s lawn. Handlers answered questions and invited everyone to pet and interact with the reindeer. Looking on in the background is Donna Fletcher. The reindeer were brought to town by several business sponsors.

By Janet Larreau

Perfect weather and plenty of fun events for all ages drew well over 400 people to the community center on Wednesday, November 28, as Arnold Chamber hosted its annual Christmas Around Town. Sitting in a sleigh in front of the community center, Santa, Mrs. Claus and an elf greeted the kids. An estimated 160 chil-

dren sat on Santa’s lap to tell him their Christmas wishes, and received a bag of treats. Nearby, “Santa’s reindeer,” brought to town by Stable Productions, drew more kids and their families for the rare chance to see these animals that live in the North Pole and other cold, northern regions on the planet. Arriving at about 3:00 in the afternoon, “Flip” Licking and two other handlers

pulled their trailer into town, and first thing, calmed the reindeer down by leading them around the business district. It was a great surprise for business owners and their customers to glance out their windows and see these unique animals pass by. Back at the community center, “Hot Lips,” “April,” and “Hula”, stood still and allowed everyone to pet them. One of the reindeer was

only 8-months-old and it was his first time at an event. Arnold resident Debbie Connelly, who had the chance to see the reindeer at another community one Christmas, organized the reindeer visit and contacted potential sponsors. “Flip was amazed how many people turned out for a town this size. He said everyone was very respectful of the reindeer, which is not always the case. He wants to come back,” said Debbie. Sponsors bringing the reindeer to town were: Pinnacle Bank, Coleman Storage & Rentals, 1st State Insurance, Mills Hardware and Larreau Construction, Inc. Another activity that provided fun for everyone were hayrack rides provided by Rich and Jane Hornung of Crossroads Ranch. The hayrack, drawn by horses Ben and Stan - a Black Percheron and Paint Percheron - made 11 rounds in three

hours, clip-clopping through the decorated downtown area and around. Inside the community center, around 400 people enjoyed a free pasta bar provided by Chamber in appreciation for doing business in Arnold throughout the year. “Having Christmas Around Town on a Wednesday night worked out really well. Last year, around 300 people were served at the supper, and this year we had a bigger crowd. From now on we’ll probably schedule it for a Wednesday,” said organizer April Tickle, who was assisted by Ali Goode now and other Chamber members. “Most people came to the community center right after school got out, enjoyed the activities, and businesses said they were really busy later on. I saw a lot of people from out of town with their families, which was a surprise on a week night.”



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Sitting in his sleigh outside of the community center, Santa Claus speaks to little Luke Riedel, son of Dalton and Mariah (Strasburg) Riedel, who was just one of close to 160 children who visited with Santa during his three hour visit.

## Arnold’s One-Act Takes District Runner-up Plaque

By Cecilia Wonch  
APS Sophomore

And that’s a wrap. Arnold’s One Act team ended their year at Ansley Public Schools on November 28. With tough D1-5 competition from Anselmo-Merna, Ansley, Brady, Callaway, Eustis-Farnam, Sumner-Edyville-Miller, and Stapleton, Arnold was recognized as one of the best. Arnold was the last school to perform in front of the three judges. Every person had a specific job to do, whether it was making the transitions smooth as can be or perfecting the timing of lights and sounds. Preparing the blue sky, putting the trunks in position, and making amulets and star stuff glow. Props needed to be set up in the right places. Everything had to be perfect. The judges were left in awe due to this amazing cast and crew. One judge commented, “Peter and the Starcatcher was by far the best acting and performance of the day.” “District competition was our best performance of the year, the kids nailed it! We made big changes and some small changes between the confer-

ence competition and districts, they embraced the changes and pulled it off beautifully,” commented assistant director, Leta Connell. The competition was steep. In the end, Arnold received District Runner-Up. Among the best outstanding actors were Tayten Eggleston, Leighton Bubak, Tatum Cool, Jarret Buchholz, Landyn Cole, Cooper Atkins, and Dylan Nelson. Arnold’s one act team proved to the town and surrounding communities they were worth watching and are an amazing group to compete against. Everyone can always look forward to One Act next season. Head Director Lana Cool shared, “I could not be more proud of this team. I loved every minute of this season. I am blown away by the level of commitment, talent, creativity, and hard work this group showed every single day. I hope they realize how amazing and valuable they are. What they accomplished was beautiful and magical, and I feel lucky to have been a part of something special!”



## “Go, dog. Go!”

An estimated 6-8 inches of heavy, wet snow, created great sledding conditions for kids - and in this case dogs, too - in Arnold and the surrounding area over the weekend. Jessica Tickle, who lives just west of town, shot this great photo of her boys, Isaac and Jamie, with their 7-month-old Yellow Lab/Great Pyrenes mix, Mae, enjoying the exhilaration of being pulled by a four-wheeler across a snowy landscape. “Mae fell off quickly, but figured it out and stayed on for the ride,” said Jessica. Farmers and ranchers were preparing for the forecasted blizzard last Friday, with livestock being moved to more accessible areas. Events were cancelled, including Saturday night’s games and Sunday morning’s church services. By Monday morning, snow was still blowing and drifting in rural areas, forcing the cancellation of school. With the official winter season still three weeks away, many wonder, what happened to fall?