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South Loup River Valley

# The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

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## Kegs, Corks & Crafts Draws Good Crowd

Saturday's Kegs, Corks and Crafts drew a good crowd to the community center for wine and beer tasting and shopping. Organizer Cheryl Carson and volunteers set up a private beer and wine garden, with vendors offering 18 products. Carson said 103 wrist bands were handed out for tasting, and there was a lot of traffic coming through to only shop. "Mac's Creek and Kinkaid Brewing Co. were very happy with the set-up and business, and are more than willing to come back next year," she said. "Alex Stuart (who provided live music), said he wants to bring his whole band back." Plans for next year are to bring in more culinary vendors, although Carson indicated she will keep vendors at about the same number to keep set-up the same. The event, held from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., was Chamber-sponsored, with members preparing appetizers for ticket holders. (Janet Larreau photo)

## School Board Gives Teachers Health Insurance Option in Negotiations

The Arnold School Board met last Tuesday night in the school library for their regular meeting. Just finishing a long two-hour board retreat, members had a short break before starting the meeting.

In review of January minutes, a change was made, naming Eric Nelson, Duane Bowers, and Tony Eggleston to the Transportation Committee.

During review of claims, Superintendent Dawn Lewis mentioned a payment to GE Capital, which is the third installment of laptop payments. The lease to own contract allows the school to keep the old computers, roll them down to the lower grades and use older ones for parts. Life expectancy for lap-

tops for the high school students is three years. Dr. Lewis said that because of an increase in enrollment, the school is down to only two or three spares. Depending on what projections are for next year, the school might have to purchase more computers in a bundle. The school is not allowed to sell laptops to students who are graduating, because Apple licenses the computers to the school.

### Visitors and Guests

A patron spoke as a guest, asking how much it costs to send out the school newsletter each month, and questioned if the cost is worth it. She suggested that the students design and send out the newsletter digi-

tally instead. The patron was told that the cost is about \$80.00 to \$90.00 per month, and the newsletter is bulk mailed out to District patrons. It was mentioned that at one time the school looked into only sending out the newsletter digitally, but some parents want it hard copy and mailed.

### ESU10 Contract

The board voted to approve the ESU10 Related Services Contract, which includes several services, including Speech and Language services. Dr. Lewis said the school has a good relationship with ESU10, and it would cost much more to find these services on our own.

### Teachers Given Health Insurance Option

The board approved the Negotiated Agreement for the 2016-17 school year. In the new agreement, the base wage will be raised by \$750.00 to \$31,400.00. The health insurance deductible will be raised from \$500.00 to \$600.00. For the first time, teachers will have dual choice offerings for their health insurance. In addition to the regular plan, a high \$3,500.00 deductible plan will be offered. With that choice, teachers will open a Health Savings Account (HSA) and put money into the account in increments. This money can then be used for costs that aren't covered by a plan. Dr. Lewis said that this option will offer tax

savings, too.

During discussion of negotiations, Board president Duane Bowers said that the school is at the lower end of salaries for teachers, and with some set to retire soon, the school needs to bring wages up, if possible in order to attract new teachers.

### Principal's Contract

The board went into executive session during the meeting to approve the principal's contract. They came out of session, and approved Joel Morgan's contract for \$75,500.00 for the 2016-17 school year.

### New Driver's Ed Car

Replacing the high mileage, run-down driver's ed car was discussed at last month's meeting. Dr. Lewis and Clay Mohr checked out used cars at Forrester's Dodge City and found a 2014 Dodge Avenger, with only 9,000 miles for \$12,700.00. Dr. Lewis said Clay looked under the hood, and it's a good, basic car, without a lot of distractions for kids learning to drive. The board approved the purchase.

### Summer Facility Projects

Dr. Lewis presented a list of summer projects for approval. Several require more information, but the board did approve purchasing new HVAC units for six elementary classrooms for the cost of \$31,800.00. These units will allow the teachers to control the temperature in their individual classrooms. Members also approved installing new interior intruder

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## Weather Summary

Kendra Veirs  
Cooperative Weather Observer  
WEATHER STATION  
LOCATED AT MILLS' SHOP,  
ACROSS FROM  
ALL POINTS CO-OP

DATE	H	L	M
1	47	22	0
2	40	22	.20
3	31	17	.60
4	31	10	0
5	36	9	0
6	40	15	.05
7	40	8	0
8	45	27	0
9	38	27	0
10	36	28	0
11	60	24	0
12	48	28	0
13	35	21	0
14	35	21	0
15	52	30	0

January's high was 55 degrees and the low was -8. Total moisture was .69 of an inch.

## Village Board Approves Several Agenda Items at Meeting

Village board members heard the AEDC director's monthly update and approved several agenda items at their meeting held on February 8.

### AEDC Update

Director Cheryl Carson reported that two LB840 loan applications were given out in January.

Estimates to place the Arnold logo and office hours on the front glass door of the AEDC office came back from School House Graphic Products, and were approved by the AEDC board. Carson said this will make it easier for individuals to see the office hours from the street and to recognize the AEDC office.

The AEDC board also approved the purchase of an external storage system to back up the office's main computer. The new system will be two terabytes instead of the originally planned one, and the cost of the system came in less expensive than originally expected. Carson said the new system will safeguard the computer from data loss and better safeguard customer information from compromise.

In her update on the "Who's Who in Business in Arnold" directory, Carson has given Creative Printers, Inc., the estimated number of businesses that are expected to be listed, and also selected an overall layout and design. She is now awaiting a cost estimate to continue forward with the proj-

ect.

Arnold is in the path of totality for the Great American Eclipse on August 21, 2017, and eclipse chasers from all over the world are expected to want to come to this area. Observers in Arnold will see (appropriately) 2 minutes, 33 seconds of totality. Darryl Barr, Solar Eclipse 2017 expert, will be in Arnold at the first open community planning meeting set for March 15, at 7:00 p.m. At the meeting, volunteers will be sought to help with what Carson has already begun to organize and to decide how big the community wants to go with the event, if at all. If there are enough volunteers, committees will be formed; if not, she will not be able to proceed. Carson asked Barr to cover several topics at the meeting.

Last month, CAPABLE Director Jenny Fox, Mid Plains Community College Campus Coordinator Kaci Johnson, and Carson, were given a tour of Arnold by six Arnold high school students. The students explained more about the SWOT analysis they completed, what businesses Arnold has, what they understood about the businesses, what other businesses could benefit the town, and what projects they would see as beneficial to the community. The tour was concluded with a late lunch and further discussion of what community projects the students would like to consider doing.

Carson also reported that one home was listed last month, and she continues to update the Arnold website, Facebook and Visit Nebraska site, and advertise events through radio and print ads. A new link has been placed on the Arnold website for donations to be taken via PayPal®.

### One & Six Year Street Plan

During the meeting, a public hearing was held on the One and Six Year Street Improvement Plan. Brent Burkland, representing T.C. Engineering, presented the plans, which were approved by the board.

The one year plan consists of armor coating and crack sealing designated streets. Werblow said from 2012 up to last year, the village made some pretty aggressive street improvements and got everything caught up. This summer, the plan is to just refresh certain streets. Curb and gutter is in the long-range plan to help with drainage problems in targeted areas of town.

In discussion of long-term plans, Superintendent Bill Moser suggested putting in curb around the city park to help control the grass intruding into the asphalt.

### New Ordinance Approved

At the request of Jane Chestnutt, owner of Jim's Bar, the board approved adopting an ordinance to allow the bars to stay open until 2:00 a.m. Chestnutt said she doesn't plan to stay open that late regularly, but the

ordinance would eliminate the need to approach the board each time a later closing time is needed. An ordinance will be drafted and will be before the board at next month's meeting.

### Stop Sign Request

The board considered the request for a stop sign at the corner of North Broadway and West Jefferson. It was mentioned that the request came after a wreck at the intersection. Members agreed that the wreck would have happened regardless of whether or not there was a stop sign there, and decided to go first with taking trees out that are obstructing the view at the intersection.

### Community Clean-Up Month

The board approved designating the month of April as Community Clean-Up Month and will, as in years past, provide a roll off container free of charge. The board also approved paying for refreshments and snacks for volunteers on Community Clean-Up Day, which is set for April 18.

### Swimming Pool Manager

Chairman Glen Bowers said he has had people ask him why the village doesn't advertise and interview for a pool manager, rather than appointing one. The clerk contacted the village's attorney about the matter, and the village does need to advertise and interview manager applicants each year. Bowers said committee members Aaron Olson and Tim Turley

will interview potential candidates and bring their recommendation back to the board for approval. Advertising for all pool positions, including assistant managers and lifeguards, will start soon.

### Mowing vs. Haying

Discussion was held on whether to mow or hay the Arnold Recreation Area. One board member thought haying might be the route to go, to save village employees time; others thought mowing is best.

Village employee Doug De Laune was asked to be at the meeting because he has heard a lot of input from people visiting the park. He said people compliment (employees) on how it looks, and tell their friends to come here.

Moser said he feels the park should always look nice. People are staying later, and camping clubs are wanting to come back after the rehabilitation of the lake. In the end, it was decided to mow everything.

### In other business, the board:

- Accepted quotes from Knapp Electric to purchase a Cummins 50kW 3 Phase Standby Generator for the wells and an Onan 55kW 3 Phase Standby Generator for the Wastewater Plant.

- Approved the yearly lease agreement with the Arnold Roping Club.

- Formally accepted the audit for fiscal year ending September 2015.