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Arnold Student's Photos to be Judged at National Level



Titled "Breakthrough," this photo taken by Arnold eighth grader Leighton Bubak was a Regional Gold Key winner in the Scholastic Arts Contest and will now be judged at the National level.

Photography entered in the National Scholastic Arts Contest by Arnold eighth grader Leighton Bubak has won at the Regional level and will now move on to be judged at the National level.

APS art instructor Julie Mohr said that Leighton entered three photos in the contest. Two of the photos won Gold keys and one won a Silver Key. The two Gold Key winners were the same photos that earned Leighton a 1st and 2nd place at the conference art show.

"The Silver Key winner was scored just one point shy of being a Gold Key," said Mrs. Mohr.

The titles of the Gold Key photos are "Breakthrough" and "Webbed Ladder." The Silver Key photo was titled "Torn."

Leighton's photography and that of other award winners will be on exhibit at the OPS Teacher Administrative Center in Omaha, February 23 through March 31.

Leighton and his family have been invited to attend the Scholastic Art Awards of Nebraska recognition ceremony, February 28, in the second floor auditorium of Omaha Public Schools TAC building.

The awards are presented by The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Students receive opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication and scholarship. Students across America submitted 255,000 original works during the 2014 program year. Students' submissions are blindly judged by leaders in the visual and literary arts.

For more information about the Scholastic Art Contests go to <http://www.artandwriting.org>.

Leighton is the son of Ted and Renee Bubak.



This photo titled "Webbed Ladder" also earned a Gold Key award in the contest and will be judged at the National level. (Photos reprinted with permission)

Wholesale Electric Rates to Increase Average of 8.1 Percent

Village Board Hears How Supplier is Restructuring

The Village of Arnold will experience an electrical rate increase from its wholesale energy provider this spring, and unfortunately, that increase will be passed on to its utility customers. The reason for the increase was explained at last Monday night's board meeting by Andrew Ross, Energy Services Engineer, with Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Energy (NMPPE).

The village is a member of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), which provides wholesale power to 68 municipalities in four states. MEAN serves smaller municipalities, and the bulk of members are in Nebraska.

Through its membership in MEAN, Arnold has ownership of its power supply. Ross said he was at the meeting to reintroduce the MEAN organization to board members and explain what is going on.

"The Plains states have the cheapest electricity in the world, and the reason is the enormous amount of energy that comes out of Wyoming," he said. "Nebraska is the only state in the country that publicly owns its power."

New government regulations are making a major impact on how the electrical market operates, and has forced MEAN to restructure how it does business. Ross said the restructuring should stabilize wholesale rates in the future.

He said to understand the cur-

rent regulated wholesale electric market environment, it helps to have some historical perspective of how MEAN operated in the past.

Since its formation in 1981,

MEAN has provided wholesale power to its participants-owners in a reliable, efficient and cost effective manner. In fact, MEAN operated for more than

two decades with extremely stable rates. One reason it was able

to keep rates so stable was its ability to buy and sell power into both the Eastern and Western Interconnection (the two grids connect in Western Nebraska). MEAN's geographic location allowed it to capture value in price differences and use that value to help offset rates and to serve as a cushion.

Several factors have forced

MEAN to restructure, including the government mandated creation of Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs), low natural gas prices due to increased

supply, embedded fixed costs and MEAN's now limited ability to absorb financial hits.

"We are at the tail end of a

five-year storm where rates increased 50 to 60 percent. Per-

haps we felt that (MEAN) was

always going to be in the same

position. There should have

been rate increases all along,"

said Ross.

At its January 22 joint meet-

ing, MEAN approved revising

its wholesale electric rate struc-

ture for its 59 long-term partic-

ipant-owners. As part of the

new rate structure, the Board

and Management Committee

approved an 8.1 percent aver-

age revenue requirement ad-

justment. Based on each

participant-owners' electric

load profile, adjustments will

be more or less than the aver-

age.

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Principal Search Narrowed Down to Four Candidates

Principal Dawn Lewis was getting some practice on how to run a school board meeting last Tuesday at the board's regular meeting, as Superintendent Pat Osmond handed the reigns over to her.

"I asked the board if she could do what I do for the rest of the year so she can get used to running the meetings before taking over as Superintendent," said Osmond.

With no visitors or guests present, the board opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m., with the first order of business being consideration of a bid of \$8,226.00 from Omaha Stage for new stage curtains.

Mrs. Lewis said that Omaha Stage replaced the wing curtains last year. The bid to replace the curtain across the back of the stage and the main house curtain and valance was missing some items that need replaced. Also needing to be replaced are the three border light curtains, and that will add some additional cost to the project. Some organizations have indicated they would contribute to the cost of the curtains, so administrators and the board will wait to hear what they might contribute.

Principal Search

Also at Tuesday's meeting, a

decision was made on the four candidates to interview for the principal position out of 20 applicants. Narrowing the number down eliminated the need for a special board meeting to narrow the number down from the top six.

The board determined the starting salary for the new principal will be \$73,000.00, which is negotiable higher for the right candidate. The contract will be 10 1/2 months with all benefits that the teachers have, including sick days, personal days, health insurance for family, single dental and professional days.

Interviewing of the four candidates for principal was set for February 21 at 8:30 a.m., in the school's resource room.

Principal's Report

Principal Lewis reported that the NeSA Writing assessment window for grades four, eight and 10 has closed. Assessment results won't be known until May at the earliest. She also reported on awards received by students in the arts and a grant recently received by SHGP.

Mrs. Lewis said the Legislative Conference that she attended in January gave insight into what might be changing for schools this session. Senator Scheer has

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Village Board Votes to Give Lifeguards a Raise

Village Board members showed their support of the Arnold pool, its management and lifeguards at last Monday night's board meeting, when they approved a raise in salaries.

Senior lifeguards Claire Beishaler, Grace Magill and Olivia Furne, along with pool manager Eileen Bowman, attended the meeting to state their case for an increase in salaries. These lifeguards have been working hard to persuade other teens to work at the pool.

"It's very hard to get the kids to work at the pool when they could get more (money) elsewhere," said Bowman. "Dealing with newbies is a nightmare. You want to keep your senior lifeguards. There's a lot involved in working at the pool that people don't know about."

"Claire is able to go into the pool house and do maintenance and teach someone. Their experience pays for myself also, because they are able to do the maintenance. People usually don't stay around for three to four years," said Village Superintendent Bill Moser.

Bowman said that the minimum number of lifeguards needed at the pool is six; seven is ideal with one alternate. Lifeguards have to be certified every year for CPR and take life-guard training every two years

after the initial year.

Board members agreed that the village needs to give lifeguards an incentive to stay around and salaries need to be raised to compete with other jobs. It was mentioned that pool rates might need to be raised in order to give lifeguards the raise they need.

The starting wage for life guards was the old minimum wage of \$7.25. Effective January 1, the minimum was increased to \$8.00. Effective next year, the minimum wage will be increased to \$9.00 an hour.

After discussion, the board decided to jump ahead and start lifeguards out at \$9.00 an hour. Second year lifeguards will receive \$9.25 per hour and third year lifeguards will be paid \$9.50. Lifeguards that successfully complete a Swimming Pool Operator's Clinic to become a Certified Pool Operator will be paid an additional \$0.25 an hour. First year assistant managers will be paid \$10.00 an hour.

A resolution increasing the salaries will be approved at the next board meeting. The village will begin advertising for lifeguards this week for the coming season.

Street Plans

Village Engineer Brent Burlund was at the meeting to

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Top Spellers



Winners at the local level of the annual oral portion of the Arnold Spelling Bee were: 1st place Sam Cool (far right), runner-ups, Jadeyn Bubak and Logan Coleman. Several Arnold students from Grades 4-8 went on to compete at the Broken Bow county meet. Tatum Cool of Arnold placed fourth at the Custer County meet. Complete results of the spelling bees are inside this issue. (Courtesy photo)