



Serving the
South Loup River Valley

The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

VOLUME 98, NUMBER 44



"The Grand March"

The fun and excitement of Junior/Senior Prom night is reflected on the faces of juniors Haley Reed and escorts Lonny Smith (left) and Hunter Willis, and the crowd of family and friends watching, Saturday night during the traditional "Grand March" at Arnold High School. The Grand March led the 58 Arnold and Callaway juniors and seniors and their dates into the decorated gymnasium, where they dined on their choice of steak or chicken, cheesy potatoes, salad and dinner roll, prepared by junior parents, and an Oreo dessert prepared by Jo's Café at Callaway. "A Whole New World - Aladdin" was this year's theme, and prom sponsor Ashley Meyer said the decorations went above and beyond her expectations. Bryce Nansel welded a mammoth chandelier together for the juniors in a little over an hour and donated it to the junior class. The students added lights and tulle to complete the look. Clay Mohr also helped the girls build a bridge from the dance area to the dining area. "The students worked very hard on the decorations, and the parents did a wonderful job of preparing the meal. Thank you to all junior parents who helped. It was much appreciated!" she said. After the meal, students enjoyed dancing to tunes provided by 3oh8, and went on to After Prom activities after midnight. (Tammy Weinman photo)

Board of Commissioners Gives Approval for Construction of Hog Confinement

Garfield Table Residents Voice Opposition at Hearing

By Kendra Veirs

A unanimous approval was given last Tuesday night, April 14, for an application by Smith Z Two Bar, LTD for a conditional use permit to construct two 102'x556' swine wean to finishing buildings and waste storage lagoon to house 12,500 swine, located on East Auble Road and Garfield Cemetery Road, by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, in North Platte. The proposed facility will be constructed on land on Garfield Table, southwest of Arnold, owned by Bobbie and Robbi Smith of Arnold.

This decision did not come without opposition, as over one dozen Garfield Table residents were at the meeting and voiced concerns at the public hearing.

The facility will house two full-time employees. An estimated 216,000 bushels of corn will be used by the facility and shipped in from the Merna area. An estimated \$46,000 in property tax revenue will be generated each year. Sixty-seven percent or approximately \$30,820, will go to the Arnold School District. To meet the feed need, 38 semi trucks are estimated per month and turnover of hogs is twice a year at 70 semi trucks per turnover.

Representatives from Thomas Livestock, Matt Thomas of Broken Bow and Tim Chancellor of Callaway, who have a long-history of constructing and running hog confinements, spoke on behalf of the confinement.

As for roads, Thomas said, "We contribute to the maintenance on roads because the roads are important to us. We have to get there 365 days a year. We will do what we have to."

Both proponents addressed the odor issue and concluded that the facility does its best to eliminate odor. New technology has cut down on odor tremendously. The lagoon will be pumped through the center pivot in the spring and possibly again in the fall.

Chancellor, who lives 1/2 of a mile from one facility he built, said new houses have been built close to the facility and sold for full market value. He said that the new systems have a better advantage for odor and this particular one is older.

It was also noted that Thomas Livestock is a third generation family business and has a very

high reputation. "They're good people," one board member said.

The concern of odor was the general consensus among opponents. The residents said being outdoors is why they love the country, and gardening and other outdoor entertaining will be compromised.

One resident had testimony from several residents near the hog confinement southeast of Arnold, who stated the smell is worse than proponents suggest. Another resident cited her hog allergies and asthma as a reason she opposed the confinement. Located less than a mile from the site, she said that she has lived there for over 60 years.

Another consensus among opponents was concern over the danger of a very narrow Garfield Table Road and extra traffic. Another opponent suggested that coming from Merna, the semis will not use the route of Highway 92 to 83 and back across Garfield Table Rd. Instead, they will be cutting off of Highway 92 through the very sandy roads for shorter trips.

Many residents felt that other people are profiting at the expense of their family farms and land, some of which have been in the same family since 1884.

The closest landowner to the proposed confinement had plans for a hunting lodge, in an older unoccupied house, just 1/4 mile from the proposed site. Since the house is currently unoccupied, future plans didn't matter, according to zoning by-laws. Zoning laws require livestock facilities to be located no less than 1/2 mile from an occupied residence.

More specifically, one opponent brought up the issue of two large lagoons within the pivot and water contamination when the pivot pumps manure into those lagoons. This matter was determined to be an issue for the Department of Environmental Quality and not zoning.

"DEQ has very strict standards - the watchdog in the sky - and will not let it happen if it doesn't fit their standards," Chancellor said. Of note, a comprehensive DEQ study will be conducted upon approval of the permit by the Lincoln

County Board of Commissioners.

At the hearing, Garfield Table resident Nate Mills said, "I know the world is overpopulating and more food production on less acres is a must. I understand and support that. My problem is when the people making the profit from it don't have to be close to it. The day you put it closer to your house than my house, I will support you!"

Lincoln County is proud to be named a "Livestock County" for their promotion in agriculture - most notably livestock - and the commissioners said they can not pick and choose which type of agriculture.

After the public hearing was closed and a short discussion was held among board members, one board member said it best, "(The issue) is never as good as the proponents make it out to be, but it is also never as bad as opponents make it out to be." With that said, the vote was held and the permit was issued because all zoning regulations were met.

Scheduled completion will be sometime next spring.

Sentinel Receives Award in Better Newspaper Contest

The Arnold Sentinel was one of the award winners in the 2015 Nebraska Press Association's "Better Newspaper Contest." The awards, which were kept secret, were announced April 18 at the annual awards banquet.

The Sentinel received first place in Headline Writing in the category of Class A Weekly. In that category, judges looked at all of the headlines that were on the front page of all Class A weekly newspapers in the October 9, 2014 issue. One of *The Sentinel's* headlines of that issue was "Please Take a Seat..." with the sub-heading "Fundraising Has Begun for New Seats at Rialto Theatre."

The judge's comments included: "Headlines are lively and brief. They tell the story with a bit of personality."

Placing second in Headline Writing was the *Hemingford Ledger* and placing third was the *Arlington Citizen*.

More than 3,400 separate entries, representing 10 dailies and 73 weeklies, were judged by members of the Arizona Newspapers Association.

The Headline Writing category did not require an official entry, as all newspapers were judged from the random issue date drawn.

Board Votes to Proceed With TIF Funding for New Const. Project

The Arnold Village Board approved pursuing Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) for a new construction project at their regular meeting held last Monday night. Blaine and Kris Hagger attended the meeting, and made the formal request for their project of building a convenience store across from Mills Hardware on Highway 92 on property they have purchased and cleared of old buildings. The Hagens also asked if there was support for them to pursue a liquor license for off-sale alcohol, which the board seemed to be in favor of. Blaine explained that the building will be large enough to house a super club with a bar, but the couple has backed off of that idea since Jim's Bar recently reopened. Discussion was held on moving and bringing in utilities, which can be included in

Continued on back page.

Senior Girls Take Finance Challenge Day of Prom

Narrowly Miss Placing First at Regionals

While most other juniors and seniors were most likely catching some extra shuteye on Saturday morning to energize themselves for that evening's Junior/Senior Prom, four Arnold senior girls were up before dawn to travel to the University of Nebraska at Kearney to participate in the second round of the Nebraska High School Finance Challenge.

Grace Magill, Brooke Blowers, Claire Beshaler and Racheal Smith entered the first round of the challenge "on a lark," and ended up placing third out of 70 schools taking the online challenge, advancing them to the second round.

Eight-hundred-eighty-seven students participated this year in the online test, the first phase of the PFC competition. The students were guided by their teachers. The online competition tested students' knowledge of money management, spending, credit, savings and investing. The students were tested individually, and their

scores were added together for a team score. The five teams with the highest scores in each region advanced to the regional face-to-face competition.

At regionals, the Arnold girls placed second by only one percentage point. The winning team, Alliance Team 1, won with a score of 93%, and Arnold placed second with a score of 92%.

The girls were given two hours to analyze a very in-depth case study describing a family's financial situation. Their goal was to give the family sound advice for their future based on their knowledge of financially sound practices. Their task was to create a powerpoint presentation that they would present to a panel of three judges that was no less than five minutes and not over 10 minutes. They were to create a budget and expense sheet with their recommendations in regard to debt, savings goals, insurance and taxes.

Continued on back page.



(Clockwise, from left) Grace Magill, Brooke Blowers, Claire Beshaler and Racheal Smith display the trophy they won in the regional Personal Finance Challenge. (Nicole Badgley photo)