

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Smoke rises from a fire inside Jim's Bar in the early morning hours of March 27, as firefighters from five area departments battle to extinguish the flames. (Tammy Weinman photo)

Firefighters Battle Blaze at Jim's Bar

By Janet Larreau

In the early morning hours of March 27, a fire at Jim's Bar was spotted and simultaneously called in by two travelers - one from Denver and one from Montana. Thirty firemen from Arnold, Stapleton, Callaway, Merna and Broken Bow responded to fight the blaze, with six EMTs standing by.

Arnold Fire Chief Eric Nelson said the fire was called in at 12:18 a.m., and was under control at approximately 1:45 a.m. Firemen were on the scene until 4:48 a.m.

“We know the fire started in the kitchen,” said Nelson. “The kitchen area is 100 percent damaged, and the remainder of the building has major smoke and water damage. In my opinion, the physical structure of the building is okay, but that

will be determined by an insurance adjuster.”

Joe Bob Atkins of Arnold Insurance Agency said the building was insured for full replacement cost.

One Callaway fireman was taken to a local hospital with possible smoke inhalation. He was treated and released.

Jim's Bar was established in 1954 by Jim and Margaret Eastburn, and holds many memories for several generations in the small town of Arnold. The bar has changed hands several times over the years, with Jane Chestnut owning the business for the past three years.

The State Fire Marshal's office reported it is investigating the March 27 fire at Jim's Bar in Arnold as a crime of arson. Because it is an ongoing investigation details regarding the origin are not available.



Firefighters put on their SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment to go inside the burning building. (Tammy Weinman photo)



From left, high school volunteers Tayten Eggleston, Aaron Edwards, Logan Peterson, Landry Smith, Brenden Rivers and Hunter Weinman get set to pull out one of the last of the old fence line posts at the Arnold Cemetery last Wednesday. Hidden from view is Tanner Brown. (Debbie Connelly photo)

First Project Phase

The first phase of improvements to the Arnold Cemetery was completed last Wednesday, when Arnold Principal Joel Morgan and Clay Mohr organized a group of high school volunteers and rounded up the equipment needed to take out the old fence. Installation of a new, white fence will begin in the next couple of weeks. Plans are also being made to remove old trees and plant new ones. Shane Cool, who is among organizers of the cemetery improvement project, said \$25,000.00 that was raised at the Arnold Community Foundation's annual fundraiser is being used for the upgrades, and they are hoping to find more funding to fix the cemetery roads. Also on the project list is straightening markers. “(The cemetery) already looks better with the old fence gone. We are hoping to get a lot of the projects done by Memorial Day,” he said.

Community Clean Up Day April 9

Volunteers from Arnold Rotary, Arnold Chamber, Arnold Public School, American Legion and village personnel will be helping make Arnold shine this coming Monday, April 9.

Any resident who needs help cleaning up their property still has time to get on the list and have volunteers come to their home. You can be added to the list by calling Patty Lamberty at 848-2228 (cell 308-520-4495) or Becky Dailey at 848-2522.

On clean up day, the village will be providing donuts, coffee, milk and juice in the morning and bottled water for all volunteers. Arnold Chamber will provide a meal for the volunteers.

The entire month of April has been designated as community clean up month. A roll off container will be placed at the village street shop for your convenience when cleaning up your property. Please stack items inside the roll off container. There will be no charge for village residents to use the container during April. Not accepted in the container will be tires, construction rubble, appliances, batteries, computers and household hazardous waste. A reminder that Legion members will be available to pick up almost any type of metal. If you have suggestions of areas of town that need cleaned up, please feel free to contact Patty or Becky.

A rain date of April 16 has been set for clean up day.