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# The Arnold Sentinel

## Bowers Receives NRCSA Outstanding Board Member Award



Duane Bowers recently received the School Board Member of the Year Award by the NRCSA. (Courtesy photo)

This year at the annual Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) Spring Conference, Duane Bowers, Arnold School Board president, was surprised to receive the Outstanding Board Member award.

Letters written by Al Bishop, Clay Mohr, Dawn Lewis and Pat Osmond helped NRCSA officials decide that Duane was the perfect person to receive this honor. His service to his school and community have been second to none through the years.

Several board members, friends and family, were on hand to watch Duane accept the award.

"He was kept in the dark, and had no idea the award could possibly be for him until he heard that the person being described spent many hours grilling hamburgers and hotdogs over an open flame annually!" said Superintendent Dawn Lewis.

Following is what was read about Duane at the presentation to announce the winner:

"It is my pleasure to recognize this year's NRCSA Outstanding School Board Member Award recipient.

"Being described as someone who is a decent man and honorable public servant, he is also modest, humble, fair-minded and naturally thinks about others, the other guy, and the other side of the coin. He has instincts that are always in play making him someone people

defer to, seek out and trust. He is very dedicated to the school. He attends every school activity, from athletic to school music programs, even though his children have all graduated.

"The superintendent states this year's recipient is someone who leads our board meetings in a no-nonsense manner. He gives members of the public their time to speak and respects all opinions presented. He gathers information before meetings and attempts to make sense of every situation before he makes a recommendation. He values the opinions of the people he has hired as experts in the field of education.

"Another person who nominated this year's recipient used the following description in his letter: "A former prom king, life-

long resident, booster club member, deacon, school board member, farmer and rancher – he is one of those rare men about whom it is impossible to hear anything but praise from folks down at the local café, the church congregation, the booster club gatherings, committee room, the sale barn, or the school's hallways. It is not because he is perfect or that he sets himself up as any particular role model; it is just that year-in and year-out, he is there with 'there' meaning anywhere work needs doing to support his school, his church or community."

"His former colleague goes on to say that, "school board agenda items now and then inspire considerable emotion whether the topic be money, sports, scheduling, reading programs or personnel. Any of these has the power to make people 'dig-in' on one side or the other. He has preferences and commitments like anyone else, but I never saw him 'dig-in.' Instead he finds a way to stay on track, listen to people with an open mind, and change his mind on those occasions when he discovered new or better evidence that cuts against his original position."

"A long time teacher at his district describes this year's recipient as "a perfect example of a great board member. He spends hours standing over a hot grill cooking burgers and hotdogs at many community activities, he fund raises for church and community projects, and he is even credited with helping start the school's booster club. He listens, collaborates, and stands up for the right thing to do in order to make our school the best possible.

"Ladies and Gentleman, I am very pleased to announce that the NRCSA Outstanding School Board Member Award recipient is Mr. Duane Bowers of Arnold Public Schools."

## Library will be Celebrating National Library Week

The Finch Memorial Library will be celebrating National Library Week, April 10-15. The library will have a "Reading Challenge" for all ages. Come pick up your check list and get started!

Wednesday will be story hour held from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., for ages three and up.

To raise awareness of the library's 125 character cake pans that are available to the public, there will be a cake decorating demonstration by the Western Riders 4-H Club on Thursday

from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. For those interested in trying their hand at decorating on a smaller scale, there will be sugar cookies available for decorating.

Stop by on Friday for refreshments and enjoy a piece of cake decorated by the 4-H kids. The library will extend its hours that day and stay open until 6:30 p.m.

There are several new books on the shelves, so come pick out a good book to read and enjoy some refreshments while celebrating.



Judy Stoehr, project manager of the Jan Eric Pusch Foundation, and Superintendent Dawn Lewis. (Courtesy photo)

## APS One of Six Pilot Schools to Receive Foundation Award

It was recently announced that the Arnold Elementary School has been selected by the Jan Eric Pusch Foundation as one of six pilot schools in Nebraska to receive a nationally recognized music and integrated arts series titled Music Expressions™, published by Warner Bros. Publications. As part of the award, the school will receive student books, recordings of hundreds of songs, and comprehensive teacher resource materials designed to enrich the school's elementary music program. Also included in the award is a training session this summer with one of the authors of Music Expressions™, which the music teacher, Chrysanne Bailey, will attend. The principal of Arnold Elementary is Joel Morgan. Superintendent Dawn Lewis accepted the award on behalf of the school district at the Rural Schools Conference March 17, 2016.

The Jan Eric Pusch Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. It has been funded initially through the Jan Eric Pusch estate and will sustain itself through grants and contri-

butions. With an emphasis on education, the initial focus of the Foundation is on rural schools. Based upon input from the Executive Committee of Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA), the Foundation will first focus on elementary music, and then professional development for K-12 rural school teachers. Other programs will follow.

To find out more about the Jan Eric Foundation or to make a contribution in support of their programs, go to [www.jepuschfoundation.org](http://www.jepuschfoundation.org).

## Community Clean-Up Day Getting Closer

The annual Community Clean-Up Day is only a few days away. Residents are encouraged to contact Patty Lamberty at 848-2228 or 308-520-4495, or Irv Jennens at 308-550-1475 to get on the list to have help cleaning up your property. Irv asks everyone to please leave a message if calling his number.

Several organizations will be involved with the April 18 clean-up.

## Rotary ARA Shelter Project Almost Complete

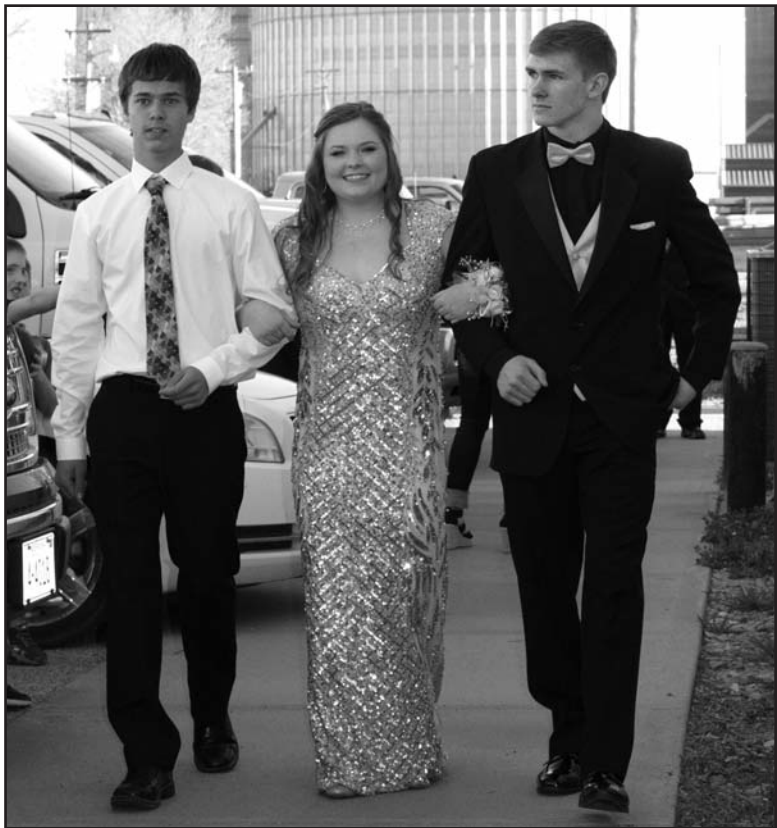


Brent Urbanovsky (left) and Dave Crow put finishing touches on the Arnold Recreation Area shelter.

Finishing touches are getting underway on the Rotary shelter located on the north side of the Arnold Recreation Area. Dave Crow and Brent Urbanovsky have been the contractors for the 60 ft. x 27 ft. shelter with a concrete floor. Arnold Rotary came up with the idea and has led the fundraising, design, material purchasing and general organization of the shelter. SORC, Arnold Foundation and Custer County Foundation have provided \$7,000.00 toward the project.

The Village of Arnold prepared the site and will provide water, electricity and maintenance of the shelter. Ron Cool, chairman of the project, really appreciated the village's outstanding cooperation received by employees Bill Moser and Doug De Laune. Dave and Brent have some structural details to complete, but the project is near completion.

Arnold Rotary has led formation, construction, financing and completion of the fishing pier, bathroom and shower facility and now the camping shelter. The next project Rotary plans for is the road sign entering the park.



## A Night to Remember

Sophomore server Brenden Rivers, Junior Ashton Weinman and Senior Brandon Moninger walk arm in arm during Saturday evening's Promenade at Callaway. The three were among 75 Arnold and Callaway students who prepared most of the day for the annual Prom, hosted by the two schools on a rotating basis each year. The night included a meal and dance. The After Prom Party, organized by the senior parents of both schools, included games, snacks and prizes donated by businesses and individuals. (Courtesy photo)