



Serving the  
South Loup River Valley

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

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# The Arnold Sentinel

## Highest Volume Store Mills Hardware Ends 2014 as #1 in State in Milwaukee Tool Sales



Andrew Tickle stands beside the Milwaukee Tool display at Mills Hardware in Arnold. The store finished 2014 as #1 in the state in Milwaukee Tool for a single hardware location, and #3 in FUEL lines sales in the country. (Kendra Veirs photo)

Mills Hardware has a firm belief that business has three simple elements: offer the best service, combined with the best products, for a competitive price. That's one of the things that made a partnership with Milwaukee Tool seamless. When Mills Hardware and Milwaukee Tool made the decision to partner last spring, few could have predicted the overwhelming success that would follow, when in 2014, the store was the fastest growing hardware account in Nebraska.

A short 10 months later, Mills Hardware would finish 2014 as the highest volume single location hardware store in the state for Milwaukee. Even more impressive is that over 50 percent of their business came from within the FUEL line, and as 2014 ended, Mills was in the

top three in FUEL sales in the country within their business segment. FUEL brings together three important proprietary technologies in Powerstate brushless motors, Redlithium battery packs, and Redlink Plus intelligence hardware and software for unmatched performance in the most demanding applications.

Dave Ackerman, Hardware Territory Representative for Nebraska, said that one of the biggest reasons for that success is Andrew Tickle and his drive to find the appropriate product for his customers.

"For Andrew, sales isn't about being pushy, but more so consulting needs and finding the right solution," said Ackerman. "When working with area customers, he found a need for tools with unmatched power and runtime that would hold up when needed the most. He has become immensely knowledgeable in the products and specifically in pairing the right tool for the right application."

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Andrew, who is the son-in-law of Mills Hardware owners Terry and Dena Mills, started working at Mills in May of 2011.

"Terry was looking into Milwaukee drill bits, and I said, 'Let's go whole hog,'" said Andrew, who has grown the power tool line since then. The first shipment of tools came in January of 2014, and by early spring, the display was up and Andrew started doing something he loves - helping people and finding the right product for the customer's needs. Word spread that Arnold was the place to go for Milwaukee tools and customers now regularly come from area towns such as Broken Bow, Gothenburg, Cozad and North Platte for the selection and warranty service after the sale that Andrew offers. Customers also appreciate the fact that Andrew pitches himself more as the consumer and not the seller.

"There's not a lot of return on investment in the power tools, but we like to help people," said Andrew. "It was a big investment initially, but if you have the product on the shelf, people will buy it. I give a lot of credit to Terry and Dena for supporting me in something I wanted to pursue."

Andrew also gives accolades to the community for its support.

"It shows that when you support a local business, we can offer more at a lower price. When you buy something local, it's amazing how things can grow. Once again, Arnold is showing that we can do it," said Andrew, who serves as president of the Arnold Economic Development Corporation.

Andrew said he is humbled by the fact that Mills has come this far in such a short amount of time. He gives a lot of credit to Mills' excellent Milwaukee rep Ackerman, who has the same concept that Andrew does: sell them something they need, not what you want to sell them, or they won't come back.

Dena Mills said, "Our rep is so excited for a town of this size to earn this kind of recognition. He can't believe it."

## South Loup Watershed Plan Project to Kickoff

Over 40 people gathered at the Callaway Community Center on Tuesday, May 5, to discuss efforts to protect the water quality and quantity of the South Loup Watershed. The stakeholders meeting, led by the Lower Loup Natural Resources District and three other NRDs, was the first of a series of meetings to talk about impairments and options for improvement to the river basin.

Adam Rupe of JEO, one of the consultants hired to coordinate the project, outlined the issues facing the basin. Among those issues are high levels of e Coli bacteria, high nitrate levels, nutrients and sedimentation problems. He also told the group that water quantity concerns would be included as part of the plan. Groundwater level declines in the basin have not made a full recovery following the drought of 2012.

Laura Johnson of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality outlined the contamination problem in the basin. She talked about Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), the maximum

amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards.

Participants in the stakeholders group were asked to rate potential management solutions for the South Loup River Basin. The group identified possible goals and outcomes for the project and discussed other alternatives to address issues impacting the watershed.

The South Loup Watershed Plan Project has been approved for funding by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Tylr Naprstek, water modeling coordinator for the LLNRD, said the plan will assist with future decision making and will lay out a roadmap of solutions. Future projects may focus on land treatment practices, water augmentation projects and continued educational efforts. Rather than impose restrictions, the project will be guided by input from local stakeholders, public agencies, landowners, the community and other interested parties. A second meeting of the group is planned for July.

## Arnold Walk for Life Raises over \$6,000

A large group of Arnold residents participated in the Women's Resource Center's 14th Annual Walk for Life, May 3, at the Arnold Recreation Area south of town. A total of six Walks were recently held in other communities, including North Platte, Gothenburg, Hershey and Stapleton, with 145 sponsored walkers and many more coming to participate.

Arnold's Walk had 33 sponsored walkers and raised \$6,200.00. Other Walks in the immediate area included: Dunning Walk had 11 sponsored walkers and raised \$2,612.00; Stapleton's Walk had 20 sponsored walkers and raised \$12,202.00. Arnold's Walk organizer was John Phillips.

The 2015 Walk for Life fundraising goal is \$55,000, and so far, over \$44,500.00 has been raised with additional pledges of support still coming in.

The goal of the Walk was to help provide for the financial needs of the WRC in North Platte. The WRC receives no local, state or government funding and is completely dependent on businesses, churches

and individuals in communities to continue offering free services.

The Women's Resource Center exists to assist women to carry to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance. Through the WRC, women may face the future with hope and plan constructively for themselves and their babies.

## Graduation is Saturday

The community extends congratulations to the seven Arnold High School graduates that will receive diplomas this Saturday on page 4 of this issue. Commencement will start at 2:00 p.m., in the high school auditorium.

## Rain and More Rain

The area has received welcome rains, with a total of 1.41 inches recorded on May 10 and 11 by Cooperative Weather Observer Kendra Veirs.

## PTA Organizes 2nd Annual Event to Recognize Teachers

The Arnold Parent-Teacher Association spent many hours planning a special week for the teachers, administration and staff to celebrate National Education Week, May 4 through May 8.

Throughout the week, students and teachers dressed up for that day's theme. Monday was "Batter Up" day and everyone wore baseball caps; Tuesday was "Wake Up" day, with

everyone wearing pajamas; Wednesday was "Giddy Up" day, with western attire seen throughout the halls; Thursday was "Surf's Up" day, with attire being shorts and sunglasses; and Friday was "Dress Up" day. Posters, created by the students to thank their teachers, were switched out each day in the school's hallways.

Teachers received surprises of gifts each day, with "Surf's Up"

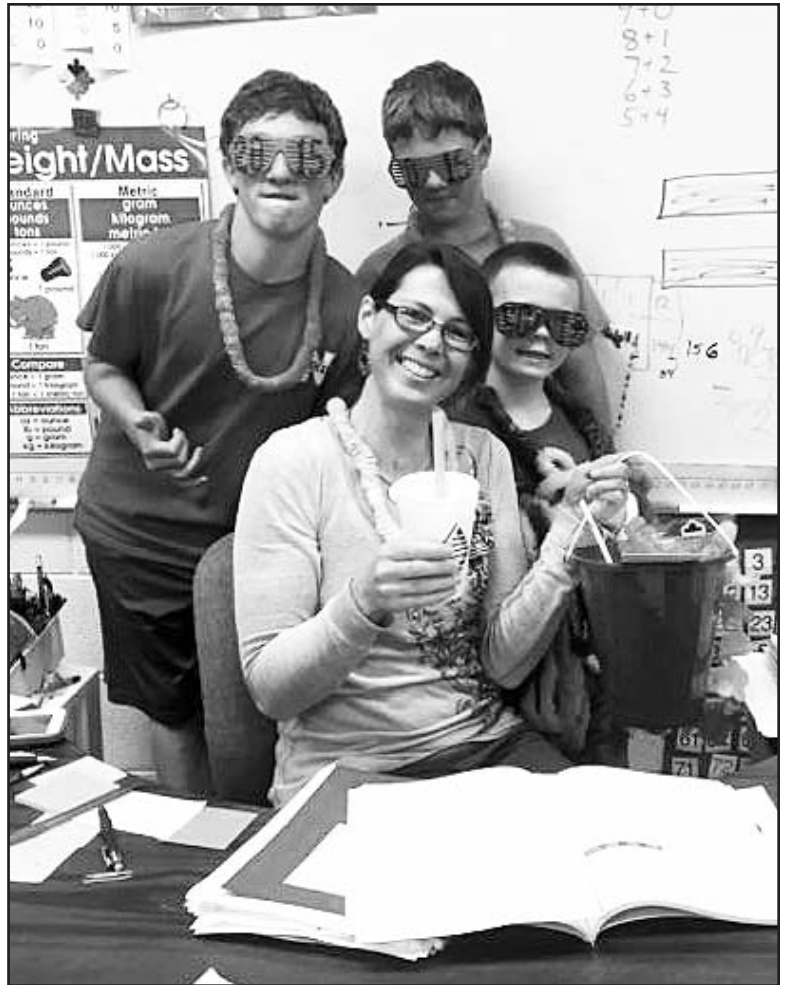
day beginning with everyone receiving a flower lei and a tropical flavored smoothie. The eighth graders and the first graders delivered a gift bucket full of summer surprises, including sunglasses, sunscreen squirt guns, fingernail polish, fans, coozies, inflatable kick boards, suckers and candies.

The event also included surprise breakfasts, barbecues and gift certificates to local stores.

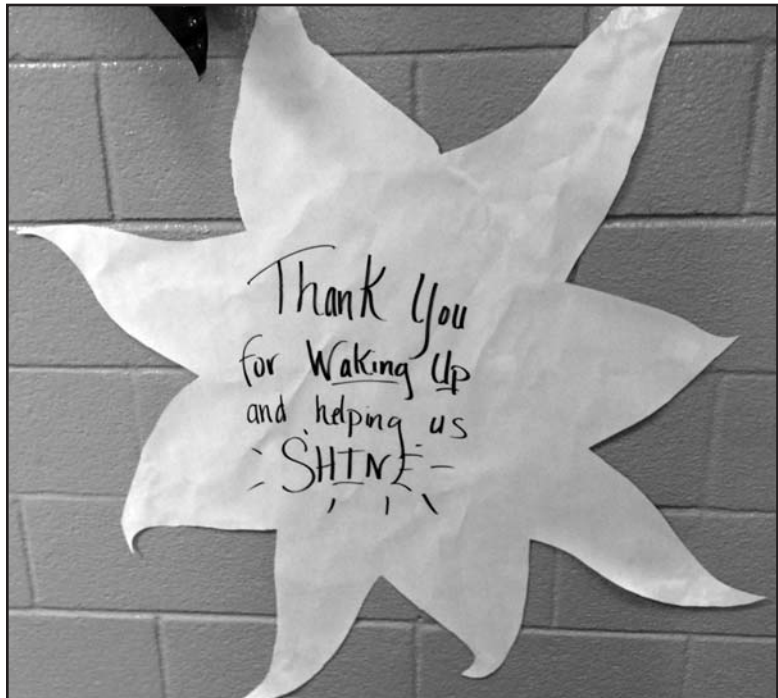
On Wednesday's "Round-Up" day, the students brought around a mason jar with a bandana full of pens and other school supplies to each of the teachers. The note read: "Thank You!" Our kids are MARKED for life by your excellent work. We will not ERASE our appreciation for all your efforts. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!" Boxes were scattered around the school, holding donations of more school supplies to be shared.

Local businesses and organizations participated, by donating food, gifts and gift certificates, and sponsoring activities.

"Waking up to such a nice reception this morning was great!" said Nicole Badgley on "Thank You" day. "The quote on our coffee cups this morning read: 'Some people dream of success, while others wake up and work hard at it. Thank you for waking up!'"



Renee Bubak, who will be retiring at the end of this school year as Special Education teacher, was among all teachers at APS who were showered with gifts and surprises by the students on "Surf's Up" day. (Courtesy photo)



Students decorated the halls with new signs each day during Teacher Appreciation Week to thank their teachers for a great year.