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Graduation



(Above Left) Olivia Furne gives her mother, Heather, an emotional embrace after presenting her a peony at graduation ceremonies held Saturday afternoon in the Arnold school auditorium. (Above Right) Sully Lewis stands in the reception line with little sisters (Sofie (left) and Stella (right)). (Tammy Weinman photos)

A Time for Goodbyes and the Start of a New Beginning

Donning caps and gowns, 13 students received their diplomas at Saturday's 103rd A.H.S. Commencement.

As pianist Melody Jennings played the processional, juniors Dayne Kulp and Ashton Weinman led the seniors into the auditorium, decorated in the class colors of Gold, Black and White.

Dr. Dawn Lewis gave the welcome, and Principal Joel Morgan introduced Class Salutatorian Merritt Eastman.

Merritt spoke about the long line of heritage leading up to his graduation.

"My great-great-grandmother, Edith Judkins, graduated here in 1914. It was the second class to ever graduate from Arnold. My great-grandfather, Robert Watson, graduated in 1940. Fifty years ago, in 1966, my grandfather, Rod Watson, walked across this stage and received his diploma from Arnold. From there, my

mother, Renae, paved the way for me, graduating from Arnold in 1994. Five generations of Watsons... a blessing or a curse to this town. I'll let you decide. Having the privilege to not only receive salutatorian, but also to be the 5th generation of my family to receive their diploma from Arnold is something I am proud of," he said.

Merritt also spoke about the support he had from his family, teachers and the community.

"It surely wasn't easy, and I had a lot of help along the way. I'd like to give a big thank you to my mom. She has pushed me to be the best I can be all through high school, and has always been there for me whenever I needed help. I also would like to thank my grandpa Rod. Unfortunately, we don't have the privilege of getting to have him here today; he still deserves a huge thank you. He taught me the essentials of life,

and what hard work is, to say the least. My grandma Carol has also done a lot for me, from allowing me to keep my horses at her place, to giving me advice in any situation. The teachers and faculty also deserve a thank you. They are top-notch and have helped to make me what I am today. I want to give a special thank you to Mr. Peterson. From the minute I walked in the doors, he believed in me and pushed me to do only the best. Mr. Mohr also deserves a thank you. He taught me a lot out in the shop, and not only about carpentry and welding, but also life lessons.

"I would also like to thank the town of Arnold for supporting me. It has been an honor to be able to live in such a wonderful town, and graduate from a high-end school."

He concluded his speech by saying, "to my fellow graduates, no matter what we choose to pursue, I know we have a winning mentality. Remember...life is like a race. There are days when the running is easy and

days when you'll stumble and fall. But don't quit. Don't give in. Get up each time you fall... that's the mark of a true winner."

Mr. Morgan then introduced Class Valedictorian Morgan Eggleston.

Morgan spoke about her research in coming up with an inspiration for her speech.

"I had absolutely no idea what to write about," she said. "I was thinking too hard about the big picture of life and not paying any attention to the little things. As it happens, one of those little things turned up in the form of a picture."

She turned everyone's attention toward a projector screen where there was a picture, with a saying, "Life is to short to worry about matching socks."

"This statement is something to live by," said Morgan. "I'm not much of a shoe wearer, and I rarely take the time in the morning to match my socks before running out the door. Consequently, my non-matching, neon socks are usually on dis-

play. During basketball and volleyball, I always had my socks on the wrong feet. Yes, apparently there really is such a thing as "left" and "right" socks. My teammates would notice and inform me that my socks were on wrong. At first I worried over my socks. Then it became a game to me. For the past two years of high school, I've never worn my socks on the correct feet. I even went so far as to wear one black sock and one white sock. Aside from saving time and bugging my teammates, non-matching socks have a bigger purpose: Life's too short to worry about what other people think.

"When it really comes down to it, worrying about what other people think often greatly affects how we live our lives. It affects what we look like, the jobs we take, the people we associate with, and how we look at other people. I'm not saying that you should never take another person's opinion into account

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High Turnout Reported for Primary Election

It was an unusual primary election for the Village of Arnold last Tuesday. Due to an almost two-hour evening power outage, some residents cast their votes in the semi-dark Legion Hall on an already-cloudy day. Election workers said Fire Chief Eric Nelson of the Arnold Fire Department went "above and beyond" the call of duty to get temporary lighting up so voters could see their ballots to vote, and they extended their thanks for all of his hard work. Even with the power outage, the village's high voter turnout of 55.9 percent mirrored that of the rest of the state.

Secretary of State John Gale said state voter turnout exceeded initial expectations. Unofficially, voter turnout reached 26.5 percent. That's the highest it has been for a presidential primary since 2000 (30.1 percent.)

"Although the competitive nature of the Republican presidential race was slightly diminished due to the outcome of the Indiana primary, I'm glad to see that many citizens saw the value of voting in other important races," he said.

Gale noted that while in the state of Nebraska, an overwhelming number of people threw their support behind Donald Trump, as the presumptive Republican nominee, other party candidates on the ballot still garnered votes.

Arnold Village Results

In Arnold Village, a total of 213 ballots were cast. Of those, 80.28 were on the Republican ticket, 11.74 percent were on the Democratic ticket and 7.98 percent were Nonpartisan.

For President, 62.05 percent

of residents voted for Donald J. Trump to be the Republican nominee, 21.08 percent voted for Ted Cruz, 10.24 percent for Ben Carson, 4.82 for Marco Rubio, and 1.81 for John R. Kasich. On the Democratic ticket, Bernie Sanders, receiving 11 votes (52.38 percent), beat out Hillary Clinton's 10 votes (47.62 percent).

For Congress District 3, 152 votes were cast for Adrian Smith. A write-in candidate received 3.

For Public Service Commission District 5, Mary Ridder received 121 votes, Jerry Vap 34, and a write-in 1.

For Member Board of Regents District 7, Bob Phares received 173 votes, and a write-in 2.

For Arnold Hospital District (vote for 2), John R. Phillips received 197 votes, and a write-in 9.

Extra high turnout for some counties

Gale said seven counties exceeded 50 percent turnout in the primary, including McPherson, which was the highest at almost 60 percent turnout. An additional eight counties had greater than 40 percent turnout. Douglas County has the lowest turnout, skirting just above 20 percent.

"Voter participation does matter, and it's something that people in many of the smaller counties have embraced," said Gale. "My hope is that enthusiasm impacts voter turnout in the general election this fall."

Of 1,165,371 voters registered for the Nebraska primary, 309,079 cast ballots. Provisional ballots needed to be reviewed and reported by the counties on or before May 17.

Ball Diamond Discussed at Board Meeting

The possibility of getting the ball diamond at Old Mill Park back into action for Little League in the future was a topic of discussion at the May 9 regular Village Board meeting.

Duane Gibson, who is one of this year's T-ball organizers, said that there are already 38 kids signed up for the season, and there is some interest in Little League by older kids. As of now, there is grass in the in-field, which Gibson said they are fine with because it slows the ball down for the little guys. Gibson said there are some who want the in-field to be dirt as soon as possible, and he asked the board if this is the right time of year to start such a project.

Board members said it is the wrong time of year because of all the rain. Removing sod at this point would only create a mud hole. Member Scott McDowell said winter is best when the ground is frozen. Members said they were good with bringing in dirt later this year if enough interest is shown for leagues to form next year. Terrence Schacher, who is also helping to organize T-ball, mentioned that the concession stand needs fixed up if a league gets going again.

Gibson asked if it was true that money had been bequeathed to the village for the ball diamond. He was told that Arnold was notified that it is included in the will of the late Edna Peterson, but the estate is in litigation and no one knows when the village will receive

the money - if ever.

The matter of the ball diamond was tabled until the fall, and board members asked Gibson to give them a report on interest shown by the kids at that time.

Picnic Tables at ARA

In non-agenda discussion, board members heard a resident's concern that there are not enough picnic tables at the Arnold Recreation Area. Tables are needed not only at camp sites, but also for the new shelter. It was suggested that residents and organizations could donate. The village clerk will provide clarification of how this could be done at the June 13 meeting.

AEDC Update

AEDC Director Cheryl Carson gave her monthly update, reporting on the recent Historical Tour of Arnold and the formation of a Girl Scout troop in town.

Carson said Lt. Gov. Mike Foley will visit Arnold once again on May 27 to congratulate two Arnold businesses on their opening and relocation opening. He will also be back in town in July for at least two more new business ribbon cuttings. She said she was planning to schedule just one visit in July, but the Lt. Gov. is looking forward to coming back, and asked for two scheduled visits.

Carson also reported that just the past week, she has pulled three homes of the website which sold to families. She con-

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School Board Discusses Landscaping Project

The Arnold Public School Board of Education met for the regular May meeting at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10.

Pat Berggren and Scotty McDowell were on hand to answer board member question regarding the landscaping project on the west side of the school building. With questions answered, and the addition of a fence from Long's Precision Fencing to the project, the board, later in the meeting, voted to approve the summer work, which will include leveling the existing landscaping, adding a retaining wall and new sidewalks at street level, and sloping new sidewalks up to the entrance to allow for ADA accessibility.

Grant Creager of CGID in North Platte also attended to visit with the board about his initial proposal to provide drawings and engineering support for future building restructuring, which will include creating more classroom space, and add a cafeteria space to the APS floorplan. The board and superintendent will work with him through the year, and hopefully begin the physical work in the summer of 2017. He will have a new proposal including additional work for the board meeting in June.

Other agenda items included approved a contract for Kendra Meyer of Callaway to teach ele-

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