

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Celebrating the 4th of July



Photos/Jessica Tickle

A spectacular display of fireworks light up the sky at Old Mill Park on the 4th of July.



Jamie Tickle leaps high off the diving board for an impressive belly flop during the Arnold pool's afternoon of fun events on the 4th.

Town celebrates with pool events, fireworks display

The weather cooperated beautifully for events planned for the 4th of July. The day started off with pool personnel offering free swimming and several competitive events in the afternoon, and ended with a fireworks display at Old Mill Park. Vehicles started lining up early for a choice seat, and by dusk, a great crowd had gathered to appreciate the display sponsored by the Sandhills Open Road Challenge and brought to the community by Chamber Legion's Color Guard opened the event, and music was provided by Westbrook Audio. The Gunther Fireworks team did a great job of planning and executing the display.

Devil's Den Bike Rally Coming to Town This Weekend

The Devil's Den Motorcycle Rally returns to Arnold this weekend, July 12-14, bringing a new event for kids, a poker run, concerts, contests and raffles.

Gates will open at the Arnold Recreation Area Friday night at 7:00 p.m., with the band "The

Lawnmower Dogs" performing on stage.

Saturday's schedule includes breakfast served by the Arnold After Prom, Show & Shine, and blessing of the bikes. The poker run starts at 11:00 a.m., with the first card picked at the

park. The summer ride will continue to Jake's or Grazer's in Arnold, Fubar in Anselmo, Legend's and Kinkaiders in Broken Bow and Shotgun Annies in Callaway.

Everyone is invited to bring the kids out to the ARA from

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., to have fun in the Kid's Fun Zone. Sponsored by Thunder Road Ministries, activities will include food, games, inflatable play areas and airbrush tattoos.

A barbecue will be served from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Admis-

sion is a free-will donation for all those not participating in the poker run.

From 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the band "Rock Salad" will perform, with the Miss Devil's Den

Continued on page 2.

Arnold grads meet up while training with National Guard in South Korea

By Janet Larreau

On June 27, just outside of Seoul, South Korea, Pvt. 1st Class Brenden Rivers was awoken by E6 Staff Sgt. James Halstead and E5 Sgt. Dave Halstead to have a memorable photo taken together before leaving on a 14-hour flight for the United States. The three A.H.S. graduates were among a squadron of some 300 National Guardsmen serving with the 1-134th Cavalry who were based at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex for almost a month-long full-scale training event.

"It was right before we were ready to move out of camp. We had a really early depart time and it was during rest plan. They said, 'Let's take a picture,'" said Pvt. Rivers, 19, a 2018 Arnold graduate who joined the National Guard in September of 2017 and serves with A Co.

James, who is in D Co., graduated from A.H.S. in 2005, and joined the Guard in August of 2006. Dave, who is in Bravo Troop, graduated from Arnold in 2008 and joined the Guard in March of 2007.

James explained that a full-scale training event basically means each section performed the tasks they would perform in a combat environment. The squadron slept in the field for multiple nights during missions. They also conducted a spur ride event where soldiers in a cavalry squadron participate in a series of graded events for 36 straight hours in order to earn his or her spurs.

"Dave and I earned our spurs previously, so we were cadre, which are called spur masters. Brenden participated and earned his spurs while in Korea," he said.

This was Brenden's first trip overseas, and there, he was exposed to training in the mountains, and a completely different culture.

"I saw some of the Korean military training as their own entity. It was kind of cool to see," he said. "The culture in Seoul is so different than ours. It is American-like, but they have their own culture inside of it. They advertise things more than we do. I don't know how to describe it. It is weird to us, but normal to them. Also, everything they do is very proper. They do things very well and keep things very clean."

Neither James nor Dave were previously aware that Brenden was in their squadron and in Korea until their mom, Meri Jo, told Dave that he was there. Brenden, however, said he knew James and Dave were going to be there.

"It was really cool to see Brenden while we were in Korea," said James. "It was fun to have another guy from Arnold there with us. Dave and I know a lot of soldiers in that unit. He'll be given great training and be able to learn from experienced soldiers."

Dave added, "A lot of my buddies that I served overseas with are in that unit. (Brenden) is in great hands."

Both James and Dave were de-



Courtesy photo

(From left) E6 Staff Sgt. James Halstead, Pvt. 1st Class Brenden Rivers and E5 Sgt. Dave Halstead had their picture taken together right before leaving South Korea after a training with the National Guard. During the training, Pvt. Rivers earned the coveted silver spurs.

Continued on page 2.