

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 4



Photo/Jessica Tickle

So long red, hello blue

Employees of McGuire Iron, Inc. were putting on the finishing touches of repainting Arnold's water tower last Friday. The week-long project changed the color of the tower from white with red letters to aluminum gray with blue letters at a cost of \$27,870.00. How long has the tower been white with red letters? The tower was last painted in June of 2003, and at that time, the colors were changed to white with red letters. Harvey Foran, who has been a long-time employee of the village, recalls that at one time, the tower might have been silver with white lettering.

Motorcycles will roar into town this weekend

Annual Bike Rally will offer poker run, concerts, contests and more



Courtesy photo

Headlining the Devil's Den Bike Rally in 2018 will be the Omaha band Mr. Sinister, offering the best of the 80's hair bands and everything else that rocks. Band members are Wendy Lamb, Ned Hoyle, Jeremy Lamb, Mike Kovarik and Jason Sweeney.

Arnold will be drawing motorcycle enthusiasts from near and far this weekend to enjoy the annual Devil's Den Motorcycle Rally.

The gates will open at the Arnold Recreation Area on Friday at 7:00 p.m. The band "Prairie Fire" will start things off, performing from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday's schedule includes breakfast served by the Arnold After Prom committee, sign up for the poker run, show and shine, blessing of the bikes by Thane Lewis and playing of the "National Anthem."

The poker run will start at 11:00 a.m., at the Arnold Recreation Area in Arnold where the first card will be drawn, and continue on to the Fubar in Anselmo, Legend's and Sylvester's in Broken Bow

and Hangar 22 in Callaway. A barbecue will be served from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Arnold Recreation Area. The barbecue is included in the poker run, and is open to all others for a free-will donation.

"Modern Kowboy" will perform from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and a guitar raffle will be held at 9:00 p.m. Also included in the list of events is the Miss Devil's Den contest, a live auction and beer belly contest. The headlining band "Mr. Sinister," will perform from 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The weekend will conclude with breakfast - again served by the After Prom Committee - and a Sunday service at the community center.

Proceeds from the rally go to several charities.

Diving into the history of the Arnold Swimming Pool

By Jadeyn Bubak
Sentinel Summer Intern

For some, there truly is no greater feeling than that of submerging oneself into the cool, blue water of the swimming pool on a boiling, summer day. For the residents of Arnold and those of surrounding communities, the Arnold Municipal Swimming Pool plays an important role in their lives; whether it be a fun hangout for kids of all ages, an excellent facility for grown-ups to gather and visit while their children swim, or even an escape for travelers passing through looking for a break from the road.

However, the pool that the town of Arnold has grown to love, was not always supported, and it was actually quite a task trying to execute the planning and building of the pool. It all began on July 12, 1961, when tragedy struck the town of Arnold. A.D. (Smokey) Kellner was at the swimming hole, which at the time was located east of Arnold, performing swimming lessons for a group of Boy Scouts when he dove off the diving board into too shallow of water, devastatingly breaking his neck. The scouts noticed he was struggling to find his breath after emerging from the water, and thinking quickly they began CPR, saving his life. Smokey was hospitalized for six months and would never fully recover from the tragic incident. It was after this event that the buzz of the need for a swimming pool would begin to work its way through the town.

To begin with, there was obviously much controversy on whether the pool was an acceptable or even possible idea. Those supporting the building of the pool saw the dire need for the safe swimming facility to prevent further accidents and those against believed that there were better things teenagers could be doing than spending their day at the swimming pool. After much deliberation and planning, a proposed plan for the pool was finally brought to the attention of the village board. Quickly, the village board got to work on a bond issue, for the sooner they passed the issue the higher the chances were of the town receiving a federal grant. The bond issue was officially introduced to the public on November 1, but the actual day of voting would be November 27. Basically, the public would be voting on whether or not the town should have permission to move towards estab-

lishing a \$35,000 swimming pool fund.

In order for the bond issue to pass, a 60 percent in favor vote would be needed; however, the community exceeded that number coming in at 76.67%. With this victory, the planning of the swimming pool would soon begin. After the vote, the main concerns were money and building site. Serving on the village board at this time and deciding on these issues was Engineer Marvin Garber, Mayor Robert Forrester, Leonard Croghan, Clerk R. R. Brown, L. V. Connor, C. A. Pool, and Pete Chesley.

After an incredible effort by many, many community members, the needed funds for the building of the pool were at last gathered. On August 10, excavation work was started at the pool site. As time went on, through countless hours of tireless work, the pool was nearing completion. Finally, on June 1, 1965, over Memorial Day weekend, the pool was officially opened.

With this new pool had to come new employees. After all, one of the main reasons for the constructing of the pool was safety. Stepping up to take the imperative job of manager was Bill Miller. To run the swimming courses smoothly, Miller would need the assistance of several other swimming aides. A week before the community swimming lessons were opened, the aides took a course enabling them to assist in teaching the Red Cross swimming lessons. Participating in this course were, Mrs. Harlan Olin, Pat Hughes, Karen Smith, Connie Fales, Connie Eastburn, Raymond Croghan, Larry Hughes, Terry Fales, Brian Olin, Nesha Vian, Margaret McDonald, Cynthia Peters, Debbie Parks, Cheryl Smith, Travy Parks, Teresa Croghan and Christy Olin. With the help of the other lifeguards, Miller would offer and soon begin swimming lessons for almost all ages. The lessons were an immense success, with 340 beginners enrolling in the first session, despite chillier weather.

Keeping the pool running smoothly for all of these years has not been an easy job. In fact, there was one year where the village board and other community members had to rally to find enough lifeguards to keep the pool open for the summer. Not having enough staff members would have left the pool out of commission, leaving many community members disheartened. Current village board chairman Glen Bowers reported on this challenge: "If a manager did not apply, and if not



Management and plenty of lifeguards are needed each year to help keep the Arnold Pool open and viable. The 2018 Arnold swimming pool lifeguards are: (top) Dylan Nelson, Max Frey, Calyn Liable, Tammie Gates, Kenna Rogers, Shavonne Schacher, Kaylee Burnside and (bottom) Jadeyn Bubak and Shaelynn Liable. Not Pictured: Kacee Dvorak and Cecilia Wonch.

enough lifeguards choose to apply in a given year, we would not be able to open the pool. Without the pool being fully staffed there is no way we can open. That is the reason there was such a push to get lifeguards a few years back."

If the pool were to actually officially close, reopening would be very difficult. Since the opening of the Arnold Pool, the requirements and standards for modern pools have dramatically changed. According to Bowers, "If we were forced to be closed, we would have to meet all of the new pool regulations. If that were to occur we would have to basically put in a brand-new pool. That is the reason the village board has been working so hard to maintain the pool, so we don't lose our grandfather clause. I believe the pool would have to be constructed differently and the needed changes would be very expensive."

Although the pool has not always been completely supported, the good aspects

it brings to the community are evident. Bowers, who is in support of the pool, commented on its importance to the community, saying, "It is really important to keep the opportunity of going to the pool going so that families can go swim together and kids have something to do in the summertime for entertainment. We also have families that come from other towns to swim in our pool because they don't have one."

This year, the Arnold Pool has several lifeguards that come from other towns. The pool also sees many kids coming to swim at the pool and participating in swimming lessons from outside communities. Maxon Frey, a lifeguard from Stapleton, recognizes the importance of having a swimming pool. "Coming from a town that doesn't have a pool really makes you appreciate having a pool close-by, for it not only is a fun place to come swim with your friends but also

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