

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Cooling Off at the Bike Rally



Photo/Tammy Weinman

Dawn Myer and Jeremy Koch (the ultimate winner) traded in their motorcycles for kayaks, racing neck and neck in a contest at the Arnold Recreation Area as part of the fun Devil’s Den Bike Rally schedule that included a poker run, good food, raffles, and live bands. Organizers report that 104 people registered for the poker run, with Dean Weinman placing 1st with a full house 10 high; Shad Yarrington placing 2nd with a Full House 6 High, and Eric Hjort placing 3rd with a flush. Show and Shine winners were: Best Custom Bike, Dean Weinman; Best Old School Bike, Zach Hagler; Best Stock Bike, Tim Turley; and Best Overall Bike, Mike Viter. Biggest Beer Belly contest winner was KJ Myer, and Heather Hagler was named Miss Devil’s Den. Proceeds from the annual event benefit several organizations, which will be reported on later in the year.

Arnold River Battle Set For Saturday

Canoes and kayaks will be racing down the South Loup River this Saturday in the annual Arnold River Battle. The event - held at Hidden Valley Campgrounds - will start with registration at 12:00 p.m., with lunch before the race. Start time is 1:30 p.m.

Categories include both adult and youth classes. Adults, 18 or older, will battle in canoes and kayaks.

Youth, 18 and under, will compete in kayaks and must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

The entry fee includes a t-shirt, bottled water and a meal.

The noon cookout is open to the public. All lunch proceeds go to Hidden Valley Campground. Camping spots are available, and can be checked out on-line.

The battle is a timed event. It’s up to you how fast or how slow you want to go down the river. Prizes will be awarded.

If interested in participating, call Della Dailey at 308-520-5905 or Michelle Preston at 402-984-1921 or go to <http://www.arnoldne.org/pages/arnold-river-battle> and download the registration forms. The battle can also be found on Facebook.

AEDC Director Gives Update on Housing Evaluation

Arnold Economic Development (AEDC) Director Cheryl Carson gave her monthly update at the regular meeting of the Arnold Village Board. She reported that the AEDC has been working on community assessments information for some time now. The housing stock evaluations are almost completed. Each lot in Arnold - no matter if occupied or vacant - must be photographed, cataloged, evaluated and then classified. After this is done, each location and all of its information will then be added into a program for proper assessment of Arnold’s current conditions. The assessment is required for any future funding that might be sought to assist owner occupied rehabilitation of homes in Arnold.

State of Nebraska Economic Development representatives visited Arnold on Friday, May 28, spending about four hours going through funding updates, changes from the state, and touring new businesses.

Carson said that back in late winter, it was planned to work on commercials to promote Arnold’s food establishments, retail and lodging. The commercials will highlight what Arnold has to offer and be broadcast over KNOP TV. As time allows, there will also be a commercial and other advertising planned for the Arnold lake, campground and recreation area. It is hoped to have these completed soon.

Coming soon is a website promoting Custer County tourism and highlighting the county’s events, lodging and attractions. The Custer County Tourism Visitors Board began this project in January, and the project has been overseen by Carson. Each community will have its own featured page of content to promote tourism and links to topics. Carson said all content was requested directly from communities. The hope is to make it easy for tourists and even local county residents to find information within one website, link to communities, events and lodging to maximize exposure access to all Custer County communities.

She also reported that recovery from water damage to the AEDC building in March has been completed. The carpets were cleaned, some furniture was replaced and roof repairs have been made.

Pool Repairs, Part-Time Police Protection Brought Up at Village Board Meeting

By Janet Larreau

At their regular meeting held on June 8, Village Board members were informed by manager Shavonne Schacher that the pool was recently inspected by the State of Nebraska, and it will be shut down next year if needed repairs are not made. She said inspections are conducted by the state at least once a year.

In the evaluation, it was noted that there are multiple large chips missing from the bottom of the pool that need repaired, the pool needs painted and the deck needs repaired. Chairs and benches that are broken, damaged and made of wood must be replaced.

After hearing the report, the Board asked Superintendent

Doug De Laune to get estimates on the pool repairs so the amount needed can be included in the budget.

Police Protection Proposal
Arnold has not had its own police officer for some 15 years, and the town now depends on the Custer County Sheriff’s Office for protection. At the meeting, board members were presented a proposal by Lawrence Stump to consider hiring him as a part-time police officer. Stump’s two-page, detailed proposal was well researched, and included costs of a used vehicle, his pay, and equipment that would be needed.

Stump, who serves as a deputy with the Custer County Sheriff’s Office, is a certified officer with the State of Nebraska and has 17 years of experience.

He owns a residence in Arnold and is currently a volunteer EMT and fireman with the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. When not on duty as a deputy for the county, he would be subject to calls for service in Arnold 24 hours a day, with the exception when he is out of town. He proposes 10-20 hours a week of coverage, and would schedule time off with Custer County to cover events as needed and as requested by his supervisor.

Stump proposes being paid \$18.00 an hour in wages or a salary rate of \$18,000.00. He estimates that the expected budget of year 1 would be \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00, and year 2 and beyond, \$25,000.00 or less.

Stump said he has spoken with several businesses

throughout the Village of Arnold, and they would assist with donations to purchase items as needed. He expects donations of \$3,000.00 or more for start-up costs. He also said he would research, evaluate and prepare grants to assist with funds for equipment purchases, and wages if possible.

He included details of what his duties would be, including evaluating and enforcing city ordinances, patrolling city streets and providing school patrol to include sporting events.

He said he would also prepare and submit an annual budget, conserve money, and provide his own duty gear.

No decision was made at the meeting, but there will be further discussion.

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AVFD Provides Mutual Aid



Courtesy photo

Arnold Fire Department members were among many volunteers at the scene of a two-vehicle accident July 11 on Highway 92 west of Merna. Arnold took oxygen for patient care and helped with extrication.

By Janet Larreau

Arnold Volunteer Fire Department members were called out on July 11 to provide mutual aid at the scene of a two vehicle accident west of Merna on Highway 92.

According to the Custer County Sheriff’s Office report, Chief Deputy Adam Miller

heard a page for the two vehicle accident at 15:31. When he arrived at the scene, he met with Lisa Kennedy who was near a red Dodge pickup with one victim inside. An EMT from Newman Grove, Lisa was the first on the scene as she was headed to Colorado for a wedding.

From the scene, the deputy said it appeared that the red 2002 Dodge Ram was east-

bound on Highway 92 when it crossed the centerline and struck a 2016 Ford F350 that was westbound. The driver, Roman Romero, age 40, of New Mexico, was pronounced dead at the scene. Deputy Miller requested a dispatch to notify the Nebraska State Patrol since there was at least one fatality.

The Ford was pulling a 2018 Titan flatbed trailer carrying a

large Bobcat skid loader. The Ford was being driven by Kevin Jensen, age 49, of Broken Bow. Passengers in the Ford were Erik and Brock Jensen, both 19, also of Broken Bow. Miller spoke with Brock, who was not injured, and able to crawl away from the scene. Brock said as they were driving, he noticed the red Dodge, which was fol-

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