



Serving the
South Loup River Valley

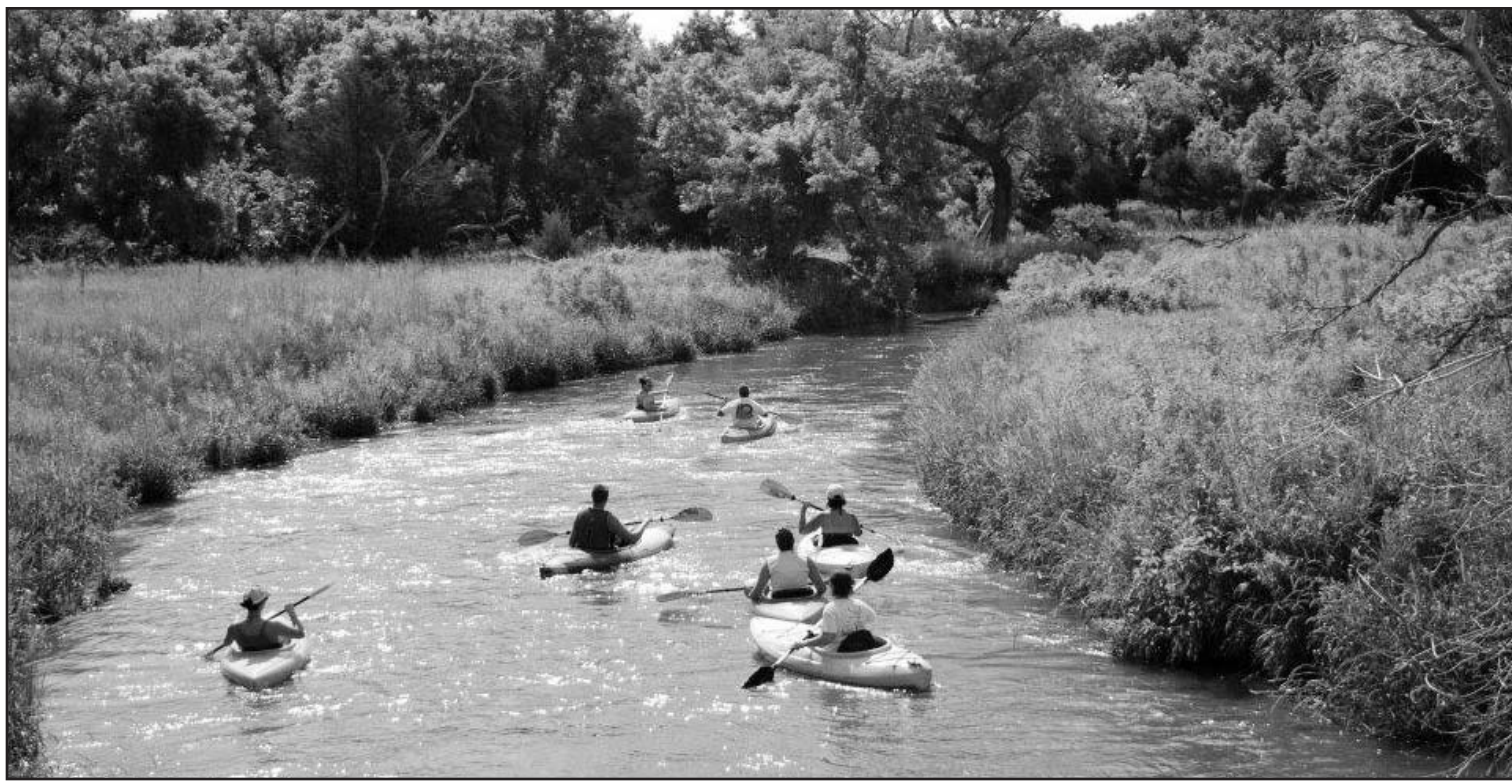
The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Family Fun on the South Loup

A group of contestants round a bend on the South Loup in kayaks in Saturday's Arnold River Battle. Weather conditions were perfect for the 5th annual event which drew 38 youth and adult participants racing in canoes, kayaks and tubes. After the race, lunch was provided by Hidden Valley Campgrounds and prizes were awarded. Winners will be pictured in next week's issue. (Courtesy photo)

CPPD Says Cost of Sub-Transmission Service to Arnold Set to Increase

Custer Public Power District Reps in Arnold Monday to Speak with Board

The Village Board of Trustees were informed that the cost of sub-transmission service to the village through Custer Public Power District (CPPD) will go up substantially at the regular board meeting held last Monday night.

Rick Nelson, General Manager of CPPD, along with April Gross and Melissa Garcia, attended the meeting to discuss wheeling charges. Nelson explained that the village signed the initial sub-transmission service agreement with CPPD in 2000.

CPPD recently did a cost of service study, and the news wasn't good. Sub-T-Line rates will increase from .72 to .94 and Transmission Line charges will increase from .57 to 1.00, for a total increase of approximately \$15,000.00 per year. Nelson said CPPD is letting the village know in a timely manner so that the increase can be included in the budget.

Nelson apologized for the big increase, saying that CPPD has not done a cost of service study in 15 years. Over that time period, major improvements have been made to beef things up for more reliable service, and as a result, its customers haven't been paying enough to keep up with costs. From now on, CPPD will do a cost of service study each year.

It was mentioned that the village has already taken rate increase hits from its electrical supplier, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, and will now be looking at another large increase from CPPD. Board member Tim Turley asked Nelson if he sees the increases slowing down in the future.

"Absolutely," said Nelson. "We see it slowing down for the next 15 to 20 years."

The village will be doing a cost of electrical service study of its own this year, and the CPPD rate increase will be factored in.

Economic Development Program Six Month Review

At 7:15, a public hearing for the discussion on the six month review of Arnold's Economic Development Program was held.

Earlier, AEDC Director Cheryl Carson had given the review to the Citizens Advisory Committee - the "watchdog" organization for the economic development program.

At 7:50 p.m., a public hearing was held to hear support, opposition and recommendations relating to the proposed Arnold Economic Development Plan.

Only support was heard for the plan, as resident Becky Dailey said, "Everyone who has

worked up to this point has done a good job."

In her monthly report, Carson said that Lt. Gov. Mike Foley, who this spring was in Arnold for ribbon cutting ceremonies for several businesses, made special mention of Arnold and its success story with LB840 at an Economic Development Conference held in Lincoln. Carson said that she received a call from a representative of the town of Ravenna, who was at the conference, asking how Arnold was doing it. Ravenna, a town of 1,400, is not doing as well with LB840 as Arnold is. Carson said it is good that Arnold is being used as an example for other towns to follow.

Resolution Passed for Special Election on LB840

With the current Arnold Economic Development Plan and 1% sales tax set to expire on December 31, 2016, the board passed a resolution that two ballot issues be placed on a special election on September 15. The first issue will be approving Arnold's Economic Development Plan as presented and the second will be to consider a local option sales tax of 1% to fund Arnold's Economic Development Program.

If approved by voters, the plan and 1% sales and use tax will be effective from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2032.

From the Floor

Becky Dailey attended the meeting regarding the location of the recycling trailer, glass trailer and dumpsters. Dailey said the area is an eyesore, and requested that it be moved to a different location. She mentioned that a lot of people drive up that street to see the view from the point and the recycling and dumpster area is what they see on the way there.

Chairman Glen Bowers said that when a study was done on where to put the recycling station, the request was made that towns put them in the center of town or people won't recycle.

Board member Tim Turley said he feels the station is in the right spot, because a lot of people use it.

After discussion, the board agreed to look into the cost of having a nice fence installed around the area to hide the station from view. It was mentioned that a nice "recycling" sign could be placed on the fence.

Representing the Arnold Parent Teacher Association, Shavonne Schacher requested permission to close a portion of South Broadway Street on August 13 for a "Meet and Greet

New Teachers and Students" event. Schacher said it will be a back to school bash, with a pool party, miniature golf and barbecue. She also asked permission to use the village's picnic tables. Board members approved the road closure south of the intersection of South Broadway and West 1st Avenue, and said the village crew could be asked to help move picnic tables for the event.

Board Appointments

In later business, Becky Dailey was appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee Board - the "watchdog" organization for Arnold's economic development program. Gary Larreau was appointed to the Planning Commission Board to fill the unexpired term of Alan Dailey.

In other business, the board:

- Approved an agreement for professional services with Olson Associates for Project Distribution Voltage Conversion & Rebuilds - Phase 3. The cost of the professional services is \$26,859.00

- Due to the absence of Superintendent Bill Moser, tabled discussion on salaries for the 2015-2016 budget, health savings accounts and capital outlay expenditures.

County Fair Underway

Residents will have the opportunity to take in over a full week of activities at the 2015 Custer County Fair, which started July 16 with the 4-H Public Fashion Show and will end on July 30 with the 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest. The fair includes Saturday's parade at 7:00 p.m., with the theme "American Bandstand;" the Dale Kugler Memorial Ranch Rodeo; a free pit barbecue; the Custer County Bull Riding Classic; concerts, featuring Canaan Smith and Jon Pardi; Nebraska Pioneer Farm Family awards; and good food all around.

A large group of Western Riders 4-H Club members from Arnold will be competing and exhibiting at fair in horse, livestock and other divisions, which are open for viewing.

The full schedule of events was published in the July 16 issue of *The Sentinel*, or go to www.custercountyfair.org.

Additional Bike Rally Winner

Dean Weinman won the Best Stock Bike category at the recent Devil's Den Bike Rally. His name was inadvertently left out of the list of contest winners. Congratulations to Dean!

New Supt. Runs July School Board Meeting

The Arnold School Board met for their regular meeting on July 14 with new Arnold and Callaway shared Superintendent Dawn Lewis running the meeting. Leading up to former Superintendent Pat Osmond's retirement on June 30, Mrs. Lewis has been learning the ropes, setting the agenda and running meetings with Mr. Osmond by her side for a smooth transition. Her replacement as Arnold Principal, Joel Morgan, was also there to give his first report to the board.

In action items, the board approved the community center use agreement for \$7,500.00. It also approved, on first reading, several newly updated board policies as produced by the Nebraska Legislature and Federal Government. Policies include increasing the cost limit of projects to require the school to obtain bids; "Return to Learn" for students undergoing cancer treatments; allowing electronic version of student records to be legal copies; updating the fire drill policy to include tornado drills and lock-down drills; and updating of several forms. These policies will be adopted on second reading in August.

Several lighting fixtures that were removed last year during the lighting upgrade were declared surplus, and the board directed the superintendent to dispose of the fixtures.

Changes that were made to the student handbook were approved. Changes include clarifying the parameters surrounding student tardiness, and updating the dress code to include clarifications and rules from the previous year. Adequate coverage tops with leggings, and ear piercings are considered body piercing on boys are among those rules.

The cost to convert microfiche records to digital images as part of the ESU10 consortium will be approximately \$3,300.00 to \$4,200.00. Mrs. Lewis said a final cost will not be known until the project is actually completed.

A Nebraska statute was shared with the board to make them aware of the allowable amount, per statute, that schools are allowed to budget for special building projects. Statute 79-10, 120 allows up to \$0.14. Mrs.

Continued on page 2.



SORC Corporate Sponsor Presents Check

Todd Thompson (center), Pinnacle Bank representative, presented Becky Dailey and Clay Mohr, of the Sandhills Open Road Challenge, a \$4,000.00 check last Friday. This is the 14th year Pinnacle Bank has been a corporate sponsor of the road race. Pinnacle Bank has given approximately \$56,000.00 to this event over the years. "Pinnacle banks are all very community minded and want to give back to the communities they serve," said Thompson. "We are very proud to join the many community volunteers and other donors in helping put on the road race." The 15th Annual SORC is set for August 5-8. (Janet Larreau photo)