

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 6

“Chester from Nebraska” Arnold farm boy rocks it on stage at concert

By Janet Larreau

When he’s not in school, working, or doing farm chores, Chester Oberg can be found in his bedroom listening to rap music. He loves it, and his favorite bands are dc Talk and Newsboys who are currently one of the most popular Christian groups in the country.

“His siblings know all the words, too, because he’s always singing,” said his mom, Dynette.

Who knew he was practicing for a reason? Certainly not Chester. This unassuming 15-year-old farm boy from Nebraska recently became an overnight sensation, and everybody’s talking about it.

Chester, who will be a freshman at Arnold High School in just a matter of weeks, attended the Nazarene Youth Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, in July. People attended the event from the United States and Canada. The conference is held every four years, and this year, Chester really wanted to go.

His mom, who is pastor of Last Call Ministries in Arnold, told him they didn’t have the \$1,500.00 fee, and he would have to come up with the money himself.

“He sold his 4-H pigs last year and used all of his money to go,” she said.



Courtesy photo

Chester Oberg raps on stage at a recent Newsboys concert in Phoenix, Arizona. The 15-year-old’s performance went viral.

It was money well spent.

On Friday night of the conference, a surprise concert was held.

“We only knew there was going to be a concert, but not who was going to be there,” said Chester. “I kinda thought it might be (Newsboys) though, because they had just come out with a new song called “Love One Another” and the theme

for the conference was “Love God, Love Others, Love Lived.” The song seemed to go really well with the theme, and I checked the Newsboys concert schedule, and they did not have a concert for that Friday night.”

When Chester entered the concert venue packed with about 9,000 people, he - along with other concert-goers - was wearing a band on his wrist

that turns concerts into an interactive light show. The color of band you are wearing determines where you sit or stand.

“Chester lost his the first day. A girl said, ‘Take mine - I don’t need it’. It happened to be a floor bracelet,” said his mom.

There were 67 kids from Nebraska, but only five were able to go down on the floor.

When Newsboys was getting

“I usually get pretty nervous in front of people, but God gave me the courage to embrace the moment.”

- Chester Oberg

set to sing the hit song “Jesus Freak,” leader singer Michel Tate asked for a crowd member that could sing the rap part to the song.

“Jesus Freak was originally a dc Talk song that Michel would sing with Toby Mac when they were both in dc Talk. This was before Michel joined Newsboys. Toby Mac is a rapper and Michel really isn’t. I knew the words to the entire song because it is one of my favorites, and I had sung it for a competition at Mid America Nazarene University in April. That’s why my friends knew I knew the song, and because I sing it enough to annoy people,” said Chester.

His friends pointed, and started chanting “Chester, Chester!” which spread out into the crowd.

“What’s your name?” asked Michel.

Chester proudly proclaimed into the mic, “Chester from Nebraska.”

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Recreation area has new sign, new name



Courtesy photo

It’s not simply a sign. There’s a story behind the new sign at the Arnold Lake/Campground & Recreation Area south of town. Many people were involved with the concept, design and installation - a project that had its beginnings back in April of 2018.

More projects planned for Arnold’s outdoor area

By Janet Larreau

New signage is greeting visitors to the Arnold Recreation Area (ARA) south of town. A collaboration of several imaginative and talented people, the sign was installed just in time for the Devil’s Den Bike Rally.

The old sign, which was left in place from when the State of Nebraska owned the park, read “Arnold State Recreation Area.” Once the Village of Arnold gained ownership of the park, the word state was covered with a piece of metal that was painted brown. The brown painted wood with yellow lettering alone still showed remnants of the state park’s era of ownership.

“It just wasn’t very attractive and was showing signs of wear and tear. It was definitely time to put up a new sign with some style and flair to draw attention to our little piece of heaven. Arnold is so lucky to own and have such a beautiful natural resource for outdoor recreation, and we need to bring attention to increase tourism and income opportunities for the community. Believe it or not, there are people who have no idea what Arnold has tucked away behind the trees, just off the highway,” said AEDC Director Cheryl Carson.

tor Cheryl Carson.

Interestingly enough, since the location of the original posts installed by the State of Nebraska were considered grandfathered in, those were left in place and just the sign portion was removed. If the Village had elected to remove the posts as well, it would have created new guidelines for the off-set requirements, and the sign would have been required to be moved farther back into the park.

Village Board Chairman Glen Bowers and Carson began talking about replacing the sign back in April 2018 as part of planned improvements for the ARA. By the middle of the summer, Bowers showed Carson an example of a sign that welcomes visitors to Hershey.

“It was red, white and blue, with a deer and duck silhouette. He particularly liked the eye-catching blue colors at the bottom of the sign and the silhouettes. He asked that something be created that could utilize those elements,” said Carson.

Carson, who went to college in Colorado for graphic design and desktop publishing, used to make signs before School House Graphics started, and actually did all the design and concept drawings herself. She began working on a concept to

“It was definitely time to put up a new sign to draw attention to our little piece of heaven.”

- Cheryl Carson
AEDC Director

present to Bowers and the Village Board for consideration. She kept in mind Bowers’ request for using blue and some silhouettes, but said she has always thought some of the most beautiful photographs of the recreation area are of sunsets over the lake, and that alone would make it the most natural way to utilize silhouettes. She thought about what the park is used for...exercise, events, gatherings, but primarily fishing and camping, and if you’re lucky on a quiet morning or in the evenings, you may get to see deer or waterfowl on the lake.

“I utilized an actual photo of a plain sunset, then placed land-masses, trees, flying fowl, a fisherman and the other silhouettes to make a quick, easily understood visual point that one might find beyond the tree-

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River Battle just keeps growing

(Pictured, right) Kids division contestants start out to navigate the South Loup River in the annual Arnold River Battle held last Saturday at Hidden Valley Campground. Organizers report that it was the biggest year yet, with 60 participants bringing their kayaks and canoes. Sixteen people competed in the 40 and over adult kayak, 27 in the 39 & under adult kayak, four teams were in the adult canoe class, six in the youth kayak 13 and up, one in the youth kayak 12 and under, and there was one youth canoe team. Winners photos are inside this issue.

It’s Fair Time

Over 60 Western Riders 4-H Club members from Arnold will be competing in several departments at the Custer County Fair this week. Several members were judged in clothing construction last week and participated in the public fashion show. The fair runs from Wednesday, July 24, through Thursday, August 1, when exhibits are released. The 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest will be held at 9:30 a.m., and the livestock sale will start at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st. For the complete schedule of events and entertainment, please refer back to last week’s issue.



Courtesy photo