

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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USGS sets up monitors to learn more about quakes in Arnold



Courtesy photo

With a couple of residents looking on, USGS field representatives Steve Ploetz and Steve Roberts set up seismic equipment in Arnold last week to gather more precise information on understanding the origins of recent earthquakes in and near Arnold.

By Janet Larreau

Numerous earthquakes have shook Arnold in April and July of this year – something lifelong residents had never experienced before. The question of “why here and why now” is on everyone’s minds. The National Earthquake Center in Golden, Colorado, also wants to know, and initiated deployment of seismic equipment to Arnold last week to assist Nebraska.

Installing the equipment were USGS Field Engineers Steve Roberts and Steve Ploetz, who drove from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to set up the monitoring systems. Helping the engineers choose the two locations for the monitors was Arnold resident Lloyd German.

“(The engineers) don’t like an audience while setting up. It took 3 ½ hours to install just one monitor,” said German.

Harley Benz, Scientist in Charge of the US Geological Survey’s National Earth-

quake Information Center, initiated the deployment to Arnold.

“The main reason that we set up the instruments is that there have been 19 earthquakes in this area. Arnold, Nebraska, has not typically had earthquakes in the past. The Nebraska Geological Survey has been interested in what is causing them and has been talking with the USGS. There are seismic stations operating in Nebraska, but not that many. The closest existing station to Arnold is 60 to 70 miles away. Given that, there is a lot of uncertainty in the earthquake locations and depth. We are doing due diligence to better understand the origin of these earthquakes and to provide a more precise location,” said Benz.

When earthquakes pop up in the central U.S., people often suspect that they might be induced from wastewater disposal. Benz said they simply don’t know the cause of these earthquakes.

“If we can do better locating the seis-

micity, we can define the orientation of the fault, and the depth of the quakes. If they are deeper, that suggests one thing; if they are shallow, another,” he said.

Another question residents have had is how strong does an earthquake have to be to cause damage? Benz said the largest earthquake recorded in Arnold was a magnitude 4.1. This is in a range where you typically feel them if you’re reasonably close. They are unlikely to do any damage. Compared to a magnitude 5, a magnitude 4.0 is 33 times smaller in terms of the energy radiated from the earthquake.

“We are doing due diligence to better understand the origin of these earthquakes and to provide a more precise location.”

- Harley Benz
Scientist in Charge - US Geological Survey’s National Earthquake Information Center

And will they continue? Benz said that in other parts of the country, swarms of earthquakes happen and then go away. With respect to Nebraska, the USGS just does not know when they will stop.

Jenny McGuire with the USGS in Lincoln, said there is not a lot of data in Nebraska, and by having these two monitors in and near Arnold, the USGS can be much more precise with evaluating an earthquake.

“(Golden) does all of the mapping for the United States. If they can report that, it will be helpful. It is also helpful if people report what they feel and see during an earthquake,” she said.

The monitors will be continuously processing data to Golden in “real time.” At the end of September, field representatives will return to Arnold and take a look at what activity has occurred. A determination will then be made of how long to leave the equipment here. Benz said it could be three to six months.

To report what you feel or see during an earthquake, go to <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/> and get the “Did you feel it” form by clicking on the Felt Report – Tell Us! button.



Courtesy Photo

Lynn Chrisp, farmer from Hastings, presides over a discussion on corn policy in Washington, D.C. Chrisp serves as the first vice president for the National Corn Growers Association. Chrisp is a 1970 graduate of Arnold High School.

Nebraska corn farmers shape ag policy during Corn Congress in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON – Corn leaders from across the country met in Washington, D.C. this week for the biannual Corn Congress hosted by the National Corn Growers Association. During Corn Congress, more than 100 farmer-delegates gathered in the nation’s capital to discuss policy for U.S. corn production. Due to the downturn in the ag economy, much of the discussions focused on international trade, ethanol expansion and the need to pass a new Farm Bill.

“Corn Congress is a time for all U.S. corn farmers to come together to address the heavy hitting issues related to corn production,” said Dave Merrell, chairman of the Nebraska Corn Board and farmer from St. Edward. “By coming together, we’re able to focus and refine our policies, which strengthens our individual voices as farmers. What we’ve discussed over the last couple of days may have implications on corn farming for years to come, so we took the time to get it right.”

This year’s Corn Congress began Wednesday, July 18 and concluded on Thursday, July 19. Throughout the two days, delegates participated in policy discussions and also visited with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill. Prior to the beginning of Corn Congress,

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Photos Welcome from Custer County Fair

The Custer County Fair kicks off this week on July 27 and continues through August 2. Many local youth will be exhibiting and showing in categories from sewing to livestock.

The *Sentinel* encourages parents and leaders from local clubs to submit photos of grand and reserve champions in any category. Please send full resolution photos, with a description, to: arnold-sentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line “Fair Pictures.” Please send as soon as possible following fair.

SORC Featured in NebraskaLife Magazine

Beautiful photos and an article about The Sandhills Open Road Challenge can be found in the July/August issue of *NebraskaLife* magazine. One of four feature stories, “Racing Through The Sandhills” is written by AJ Dahm, who was also the photographer. Readers are drawn to page 90, with the introduction, “Fast cars meet small-town hospitality, food and friends at the nation’s most challenging rally-style auto race.” Color photos include a bird’s-eye view of the car show on Arnold’s main street, the One Mile Shootout, SHGP students applying numbers to the cars, another bird’s-eye view of racers and spectators sharing meals at the Callaway Community Center, and cars racing north out of Arnold on the Dunning road. In the article, Dahm covers all of the locations and events associated with the three-day event. This year’s SORC will be held August 9, 10 and 11. The full schedule can be found inside this issue.



Courtesy photo

With their kayaks and canoes ready, a large group of competitors of all ages cool off in the South Loup River at Saturday’s 8th Annual Arnold River Battle.

Biggest Battle Yet

In its 8th year, last weekend’s Arnold River Battle was the biggest yet, with 56 racers entered. Racers - ranging in ages from 71 to 8 - brought their kayaks and canoes for an afternoon of taking on the South Loup River’s many challenges in the timed event.

One of the event’s organizers, Della Dailey, gave a shout-out to Ian Taylor for all the work he does clearing trees down the river all summer long. Mandi

Rosentrater timed and took pictures, and Hidden Valley Campground provided the location and made lunch for all the racers.

This year’s sponsors were: RT Green - 444Racing, Arnold Car Wash, Preston Precision Ag, Reed’s Food Center, The Arnold Exchange, Pinnacle Bank, Sandhills Open Road Challenge, First State Insurance, Mighty Mart, A-1 Auto Repair and Jake’s Horses and Harleys

Grille.

“We want to thank the sponsors and the community for their support. The race wouldn’t happen without it!” said Della.

Following are the results and number of competitors in both adult and youth classes:

**12 Adults
Kayak 40 and Over**
1st Place - Duane Bowers; 2nd Place -

Jeff Willis; 3rd Place - Krista Taylor.

**25 Adults
Kayak 59 and Under**
1st Place - Joel Morgan; 2nd Place - Brandon Nansel; 3rd Place - Hollie Lehr.

**5 Youth
Kayak 13 and Up**
1st Place - Lance Jones; 2nd Place - Shaylee Jones; 3rd Place - Natalie Jones.
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