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New School Year, New Faces



(From left) New faces at Arnold Public Schools for the 2016-17 school year are (from left) Tami Olson, new school secretary; Kendra Meyer, Special Education teacher; and Nicole Recoy, Title I teacher. (APS photos)

After a seemingly short summer break, Arnold students were back in the classroom last week, and were introduced to several new faculty and staff members, who are all well qualified.

Nicole Recoy has been hired as the new Title 1 teacher. Recoy taught at Stapleton Public Schools for 17 years before hiring on at Arnold.

A 1994 graduate of Arnold High School, she earned degrees from Midland University in Elementary Education and the University of Nebraska at Kearney in Instructional Technology. She and husband Pat live in Arnold and have three young children: Halie, who is in the 5th grade, Logan in 4th, and Peyton, who is a toddler.

Mrs. Recoy enjoys teaching and getting to know the students, and has coached several sports, but mainly track and cross country.

"I am really excited to be teaching at APS this year! I look forward to getting to know and

work with the students at Arnold. The staff has been wonderful and very helpful as I transition into a new school," said Mrs. Recoy.

Kendra Meyer will be the new Special Education teacher. A Crawford native, she graduated from Chadron State College with a BA degree in Child and Family Studies with a minor in Nutrition and Wellness. She is currently working towards her post Baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood Inclusive with an endorsement in Special Education K-12 from Chadron State College.

She is married to Zach Meyer, son of Roxi and Randy Meyer of Callaway, and he works alongside his father at J.R. Meyer Insurance Agency.

"I am so appreciative of how kind and welcoming the staff and community members have been to me," said Mrs. Meyer. "I feel honored to be a part of such a great school, and I am excited for what's to come this school year at APS."

Replacing Penny Allen in the school's front office is 2001 A.H.S. graduate Tami Smith.

Mrs. Smith received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, Social Science Teaching from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2005. She has also been working towards a counseling degree at Chadron State College and has 20 credit hours so far.

She is the daughter of Don and the late Jolene Olson, and is raising kids Madison, 5th grade; Gabe, 3rd grade; and Aiden, 4, with husband David Smith on their farm.

She taught history classes and psychology and coached volleyball at Broken Bow for one year, and worked at Stapleton as a community liaison and served as their guidance counselor for another year. She left both positions to raise babies Gabe and Aiden.

"I'm excited to be in the school system working with our staff and students," said Mrs. Smith. "Arnold has become a



Jessica Coons and Leta Connell are new para-educators.

school that pushes ahead to add new technology and methods of learning when it becomes available. We have a well educated staff and students that strive to do well. I'm really excited to be a part of this school."

Mrs. Smith said she is really enjoying the secretary position.

"The office is a fun place to be, and I enjoy a challenge, so learning how to do all of the state reporting and Wordware software has been great. It is an added bonus to see my kids throughout the day, every day as well," she said.

In addition, two new para-educators will provide staff sup-

port.

Leta Connell graduated from Gordon High School, and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with Administration Emphasis from Black Hills State University in May of 1994. She is married to Casey Connell, and their three boys, Cade, Jace and Trey, attend APS.

A Callaway High School graduate, Jessica Coons attended UNK for one year, majoring in elementary education, then transferred to CCC in Hastings, graduating with her Associate's degree in May of 2015 in early childhood education.

AEDC Ribbon Cuttings Set for September 2 With Lt. Gov.

Arnold Economic Development Ribbon cuttings will be hosted on Friday, September 2. Three businesses will be honored that day. Lt Gov. Mike Foley will again be coming to help the community celebrate, as he always does.

Ribbon cuttings, in order, follow:

*Joe Bob Atkins - Arnold Insurance Agency.

*Tony Eggleston - Agra Affiliates.

*The Arnold Exchange - New restaurant and convenience

store.

The group will gather on site at the first business around 8:55 a.m., and begin at 9:00 a.m. sharp with a tour of the facility. The first ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 9:15.

The conclusion of the event will include lunch with the business owners, delegate group, and Lt. Gov. Mike Foley.

A more detailed schedule will be provided by AEDC Director Cheryl Carson in next week's issue.

Bobcat Scoreboards Go Digital

A new wireless, digital scoreboard, sporting South Loup colors and the Bobcat mascot, will be in use at the Arnold football field this season, replacing the 30-plus-year-old analog board that was in need of repairs.

Activities Director Jarod Rush organized the effort to have the scoreboards replaced at both the Arnold and Callaway fields.

"The old scoreboard at Arnold is believed to have been purchased in 1983 or 1984. It was turning on or shutting off during games. The wiring was believed to have some kind of short in it, and because it was an analog board, they no longer make parts for it," he said.

Discussion on replacing the board started after Christmas last year, and the \$11,500.00 project was presented to the school board in March. When a possible plan was in place, the next step was finding scoreboard advertisers to help pay for the project. With enough interest found, the school board gave the go-ahead to start selling advertisements in the spring.

In Arnold, eight spots were sold to Great Plains Communications, Country Partners, Pinnacle Bank, Reed's Food Center, Arnold Insurance Agency, First State Insurance, Keane's Suzy's Pizza, and Agri-Affiliates. No grants were used for the board itself, as the school and advertisers paid for it, but grants were received from the Arnold Community Foundation and SORC to purchase a separate message board.

Rush said the \$11,500.00 cost was for the board and controller only, and did not include



The South Loup Bobcat mascot and colors are sported on a new wireless, digital scoreboard that will be used for the first time September 2 when the Bobcats take on Ainsworth at the Arnold field. Callaway also replaced its aging scoreboard in a cooperative effort that included volunteers. (Sentinel photo)

the cost of getting electricity to the board and the sponsor panels and ads.

The board arrived the middle of July. At the same time, Callaway, who Arnold co-ops sports with, was proceeding with the same project. Lots of volunteer labor was used in both Arnold and Callaway, and the two schools saved about \$1,000.00 each by taking the old boards down and putting the new ones up. Ed Lashley of Redfern Electric hooked up the board in

Arnold, and Roy Callahan took care of Callaway's. Existing poles were cleaned up and painted to match the signs in both towns.

Volunteers who helped included: Rush, Clay Mohr, Arnold Principal Joel Morgan, Callaway Principal Heath Birkel, Mike Weverka, Duane Bowers, Rusty Wykoff and Shane Cool, who provided his boom truck which was used to pick up the old boards and the new boards. Rush said it would

have been a real pain without him. Robby Keeney provided his bucket truck in Callaway.

Clay Mohr and Arnold School House Graphic Products saved both districts a lot of money. The old scoreboards were used for the sponsor panels that go underneath the new boards. Mohr's class will also do the sponsor advertising that slides in those panels. This saved each district about \$2,000.00.

"The benefits of the new system is that it is wireless," said

Rush. "We didn't have to hard wire them and tear up any of the field to put new wire in the ground. Everything should be faster and more durable."

With the installation of new boards, players and fans will no longer hear a horn at the end of the quarter.

"There is a point of emphasis from the NSAA that you do not sound the horn because kids were stopping play on the horn, and some were getting hurt," said Rush. "The play is not over because the horn goes off. The play continues until the runner is down or the pass is incomplete or the official blows his whistle."

Rush said at some point, both communities plan on replacing the scoreboards in the gymnasiums, but that will probably have to wait a few years. Sponsors agreed to pay \$2,500.00 for a five year period. However, the schools will not get all that money up front. Sponsors can choose to break that amount up into \$500.00 payments each year, so the schools had to come up with the entire cost of the boards. Then, over five years, they will get that money back from the sponsors.

"Both communities were very generous and willing to help out with the scoreboards," said Rush. "It continues to amaze me how we can get things accomplished by working together. So many people are willing to help out with our projects and to make this co-op stand out. I hear so many horror stories about co-ops, but Arnold and Callaway seem willing to do whatever we need to do to make it work."