



Serving the  
South Loup River Valley

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

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# FALL FESTIVAL

## Saturday, August 29

What was tradition is returning to Arnold this weekend, as the Fall Festival makes a comeback.

As “old timers” remember, the annual event used to be held in September, right before school started, and was then moved to August. When the Sandhills Open Road Challenge became established in August, and its demands grew for volunteers, Festival was moved to the 4th of July, and has been billed as the “4th of July Blow-Out” ever since.

That decision was made by sponsoring organization Chamber. When attendance diminished, and volunteer help was hard to find over the 4th of July, sponsoring organization Chamber decided last year to move the Festival back to August in 2015.

Arnold’s Rotary has now stepped in to organize the Festival, with Chamber still acting as sponsor.

Rotary’s chairman for Festival this year is Melody Jennings, who has put a lot of time and effort into bringing back some “Old Fashioned Fun” to the community. Jennings has

sought out many volunteers to head events, and although many of the activities from the Blow-Out will return, several have been added. She said everyone has been encouraged to follow this year’s “Old Fashioned” theme.

Rotary has selected Mary Carlson as Grand Marshal of the parade, in honor of her many years of ownership of the Cardinal Inn. Mary will be retiring and closing her doors at the end of September, and Jennings said Mary has served the community well with home-cooked meals.

Parade chairman Dena Mills remembers the “old days,” well, and said she is emphasizing the newly-added category of decorated bikes, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners receiving a special prize. Other categories that will be judged include: Kids Entry, Horse Entry, Business, Tractor, Car, Church, Organization and High School.

Line-up begins Saturday at 9:30 a.m., at the Methodist church, with the parade beginning at 10:30 a.m. Everyone completing the parade route south to the post office will re-

ceive a free bottle of water.

Entry deadline for the parade is Friday, August 28, at 6:00 p.m. Forms are available at Mills Hardware and should be returned to Dena or the hardware store. For more information, call Dena at 848-3253 or 848-2515.

The Festival will also include a free barbecue at the city park, with the volunteer fire department setting up, Rotary serving and the booster club cooking. TeamMates will be serving pie and ice cream.

Several contests have been added this year, including a pie baking contest

In the spirit of community support and involvement, along with a knack for having fun, Brad Atkins and Larry Moran have agreed to a “Battle of the Auctioneers” at the pie auction for the Festival. The auction will begin around 7:00 p.m., at the end of the barbecue.

Brad and Larry will take turns selling the pies baked for the pie baking contest sponsored by the Arnold Chapter of TeamMates. At the end of the auction, it will be determined which auctioneer raised the most money. All proceeds will stay right here in Arnold to ben-

efit its students.

“Don’t plan to just come watch the fun - plan to bring your checkbook and get involved!” said Jennings. “You can buy a homemade pie and help support TeamMates at the same time. Thank you Brad and Larry!”

A new afternoon event added since the schedule was released is old fashioned games, including checkers, for adults, in the east shelter of the city park.

The Fun Run/Walk has been cancelled, according to Jennings.

For the complete Festival schedule, please refer to page 8 of *The Sentinel* or view posters hanging all around town. More information on separate events has also been appearing in *The Sentinel* the past three weeks, with more “Festival Features” added this week.

Following are the events and their chairmen not listed above:

- Ministerial Breakfast by pastors at the Baptist church.
- Black Powder Shoot at the Gun Club. Perry Sage, chairman.
- Pie Baking Contest sponsored by Arnold TeamMates. Leron Bierman, chairman.
- Kiddie/Pet Parade spon-

sored by Homegrown Kids Day-care. Heather Hagler, chairman.

• Turtle Races sponsored by National Honor Society.

• Kids’ Games. Lori Stutzman, chairman, with Junior Honor Society.

• Duck Races sponsored by Western Riders 4-H Club, Kacee Dvorak, chairman.

• Horseshoe Tournament. Tullis family, chairmen.

• Golf Cart Races. Irv Jennings, chairman.

Other events:

• Handwriting Contest. Sponsored by Flowers by Shavonne. Shavonne Schacher, chairman.

• Song Title Contest. Sponsored by Red Hat Society. Karla Nansel, chairman.

• Children’s Coloring Contest sponsored by Finch Library.

• Fun Jumpz Water Slide sponsored by Chamber.

• Miniature Golf sponsored by Chamber.

• Vintage Clothing Show at Riverview, hosted by residents.

• Horse-drawn wagon rides by Ray Holt.

• Free movie weekend sponsored by Rotary.

• (Sunday, August 30) Obstacle Mud Run. Liz Bierman, chairman.

## South Loup Watershed Stakeholders will Meet September 2 in Arnold

Lower Loup Natural Resources District officials say development of a watershed management plan for the South Loup River Basin is moving forward. The Lower Loup NRD will hold a second stakeholders meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Arnold Community Cen-

ter in Arnold.

LLNRD Water Modeling Coordinator Tyler Naprstek said that the stakeholders group is helping to guide the planning effort for the basin. He said at the first meeting in Callaway, participants discussed the issues facing the river basin. He said the September meeting would

look at the results of a survey of basin residents, conservation practices that have been successful in the basin and some analysis of the basin status.

Among the water quality issues the basin is facing are high levels of e Coli bacteria, high nitrate levels, nutrients and sedimentation problems. Naprstek said that finding the best practices to counter these water quantity concerns will be included as part of the plan. As for water quantity, he said that groundwater level declines in the basin have not made a full recovery following the drought of 2012 and more study will be done to understand the hydrogeology of the basin.

For more information on the South Loup River Basin stakeholders meeting, contact Naprstek at the Lower Loup NRD offices in Ord at (508) 728-3221.

## Early Deadline Notice

*Sentinel* staff will be taking vacation over the Labor Day weekend. As a result, the deadline for the September 10 issue will be Thursday, September 3, at noon. The issue will be e-mailed for printing by the end of the day on Thursday. The office will be closed from Friday, September 4 through Tuesday, September 8.

## Mild Temps Prevail

Kendra Veirs,  
Weather Observer

DATE	H	L	M
18	66	58	.25
19	67	50	0
20	73	48	0
21	82	44	0
22	82	52	0
23	80	53	0
24	72	45	0



## Kindergartners Excited to Start School

A nice sized class of kindergartners were adjusting to the schedule and life at public school last week, as kindergarten teacher Carissa Batenhorst was also adjusting to her first year as a teacher. Pictured are: (back, l-r) Adalei Tullis, Delanie Weinman, Anna Coleman, Brody Green, Austin Davenport, Rae Hagler, Tre Fortune, Tysen Schacher; (front, l-r) Alexis Stutzman, Shane Gibson, Dwayne Barraza, Callan Witthuhn, Maryah Lamphear, Juan Pablo Zeniga and Tylee Smith. (Kendra Veirs photo)

## School District #89 Ranks “Excellent” in Report

Arnold Public Schools received high rankings in the recently released Nebraska Department of Education Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT).

The report uses the following rankings: 1. Needs Improvement, 2. Good, 3. Great and 4. Excellent.

Principal Morgan reported the good news at the August board meeting that the elementary had a ranking of Great, the high school had a ranking of Excellent, and the overall district rating was Excellent.

Schools and districts classified as Excellent and Great will be recognized by the Nebraska

State Board of Education. The best practices in schools of excellent will be highlighted and shared among schools, as will effective intervention strategies and plans.

Scoring is based on the following:

**1. Positive Partnerships, Relationships and Student Access. Areas of focus are:**

- Individualized or Personalized Learning Plans
- Attendance and participation
- Family Engagement and Community and Support Services

**2. Transitions: Graduation Rate. Areas of focus are:**

- Early Childhood-Elementary

- Elementary-Middle School
- Middle School - High School
- High School - Post High School

**3. Educational Opportunities and Access. Areas of focus are:**

- Early Childhood Education
- Comprehensive Learning Opportunities
- Expanded Learning Opportunities
- Blended Learning Opportunities

**4. College and Career Ready. Areas of focus are:**

- Rigorous College & Career Ready Standards for All Content Areas
- Technological & Digital Readiness
- Support for Career Awareness and Career/College Goals

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**5. Assessment. Areas of focus are:**

- Individualized/Adaptive Assessments
- Classroom Based Assessments
- State Assessments
- National/International Assessments

**6. Educator Effectiveness. Areas of focus are:**

- Nebraska Teacher & Principal Performance Framework
- Professional Development
- Building Leadership Supports
- Effective Local Policy Makers & Superintendent

Schools and districts will be classified and recognized annually. This new classification sys-

tem will also align with the accreditation of school districts and serves as a blueprint of continuous improvement for each school and each school district in Nebraska.

Any school or district falling into the classification of Needs Improvement will be required to submit an action plan to the Nebraska Department of Education that outlines the steps underway to make improvements. The three schools most in need of improvement will be designated as Priority schools, and be required to work with an NDE intervention team to create an intervention plan.

Schools and districts will be classified and recognized annually.