

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## American Legion Celebrates 100 Years of Existence



Photo/Debbie Connely

Lining up before the Custer County American Legion Annual Convention began in Arnold last Sunday are: (from left) Gary Trojan, County Chaplain (Comstock); Kent DeLoch; John Phillips, Arnold Legion Post Commander; Dale Estergard, County Adjutant (Callaway); Gary Halstead, Charles Foran, Mike Harvey; Gene Hendricks (County Vice Commander (Broken Bow); and Sid Vose, County Commander (Ansley).

## Custer County convention held in Arnold last Sunday

By Janet Larreau

Custer County American Legion members held their annual convention last Sunday at Arnold. This was a special event, as members also celebrated the 100th anniversary of Legion, which was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization.

Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.

Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the county. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

The original application for a charter for the William L. Lay-

ton Post No. 130 Department of Nebraska, was dated November 30, 1919. The Post was named after Layton, who was the first Arnold boy killed in action on November 11, 1918. The names of the charter members appear on the framed charter hanging in the Legion building.

“It just happened to be our rotation this year to host the county convention. There has been an unbroken string of Custer County conventions for 100 years. That’s pretty amazing,” said Arnold American Legion Post 130 Commander John Phillips.

In June 1921, a charter for a local Auxiliary unit was applied

for, and it became necessary to apply for a second charter in March 1925.

Charles Foran, Arnold Post 130 Adjutant, said membership peaked in the 70s with over 100 members, but continues to lose members due to age, and younger, eligible veterans who aren’t as apt to join organizations. Arnold now had 51 members.

Custer County Legion Commander Sid Vose, who is also the commander of Post 153 in Ansley, said that although membership has fallen, the county, with Posts in Ansley, Arnold, Broken Bow, Callaway, Merna, Oconto, Sargent, Mason

City and Comstock, build things together.

“We are one of the more active counties in the state,” said Vose. “There are a lot of Posts out there that are bigger, but Custer County as a whole works together more than some counties when it comes to funerals and parades. We still represent our individual units, but we send kids to County Government Day as a county. A lot of counties aren’t able to do that anymore for whatever reason.

He said funerals are where Custer County excels the most.

“If one unit is shy (a member or two), another will step up. It always gets done,” he said. “When I joined the Legion, my main focus personally was because of the funerals. That is what is important to me. The younger ones haven’t found their reason, but I feel it’s just a matter of time before they do.”

Sons of American Legion has been formed in Comstock, Callaway and Arnold to encourage younger veterans to become members.

At Sunday’s convention, Legion members covered what each individual unit has done for the year, gather that infor-

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## Western Riders 4-H Club Members Earn Awards at State Fair

Several Western Riders 4-H Club members came away with awards from the Nebraska State Fair. Following are the kids and their ribbon placings:

**Jaden Baker-Welch:** Blue Ribbon for 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H Design Decision - Community Service Activity; Purple Ribbon for 4H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4H Cooking 201 - Baking with

Whole Grain.

**Jamie Johnson:** Blue Ribbon for 4H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4H Conservation & Wildlife - Wildlife Values Scrapbook.

**Michael Johnson:** Red Ribbon for 4H Plants - 4H Horticulture - Jalapeno Peppers.

**Brianna Mowrey** - Purple Ribbon for 4H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4H Cooking 401 -

Foam Cake.

**Eli Rogers:** Purple Ribbon for 4H Science & Technology - 4H Welding - Welding Article.

**Tylee Smith:** Blue Ribbon for 4H Plants - 4H Horticulture - Snap Beans.

**Tristin Welch:** Rainbow Recognition for 4H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4H Conservation & Wildlife - Fish Display.

**Aubree Stutzman:** Blue Ribbon for 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H STEAM Clothing 2 - Simply Sewing - Upcycled Garment; Red Ribbon for 4H Communications & Expressive Arts - 4H Photography Unit II - Lighting Display or Exhibit Print.

**Rio Remund:** Purple Ribbon for 4H Science & Technology - 4H Welding - Welding Article.



Photo/Jessica Tickle

## Fleet of Fords

The Weinman family, (from left) Dean Weinman, Dena (Weinman) Mills, Glen Weinman and Connie Weinman, are pictured with a line-up of five Ford pickups at the 2nd Annual Sandhills Automotive Show & Shine (S.A.S.S.) held Saturday at the Arnold Recreation Area. All of the trucks are '76 through '79 models, and all have a story behind them. Dean is standing by his old high school pickup that has been restored and is in mint condition. Dena is pictured by a restored 3 on the Tree Ford, which is a three-speed manual transmission whose gearshift lever is mounted on the steering column. Ray Pearman helped with the restoration of this pickup, and the paint job was done by Marty Pirnie. Glen is standing by a classic found in Texas, and Connie is pictured by a classic that belonged to Stapleton resident Wayne Hora's father. This pickup didn't need restored, as it was taken very good care of over the decades. Last, but not least, is a completely restored pickup that belonged to the late Jim Holman. Placing 1st in its division, Glen and Connie said this pickup has special meaning because it belonged to Jim. All of the pickups, with the exception of Dean's, are owned by Glen and Connie.

S.A.S.S. organizer Margie McDowell said there were 22 entries overall at the car show, which was moved to the Arnold Recreation Area from last year's location of the community center. “Everybody seemed to like the shade,” she said. “We could have up to 75 cars in the area that we used, but there was a car show in North Platte the same day. I thought we had a pretty good crowd, but would have liked to have seen more. Next year, we'll go for the latter part of September to hold the show.”

Other division winners were: David Leach - '41 combine; Keith Williams - '67 Camaro; Dean Weinman - 2015 Road Glide motorcycle.