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South Loup River Valley

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 13

# The Arnold Sentinel

## South Loup Stakeholders Closer to Watershed Management Plan After Meeting in Arnold



John Engel of HDR, Inc. in Omaha discusses the South Loup River Basin's issues with a group of 25 stakeholders at a meeting at the Arnold Community Center on September 2. HDR is a sub-contractor to JEO Consulting Group, Inc., the firm hired to conduct the basin project. (Courtesy photo)

Officials with the Lower Loup Natural Resources District and area residents continued work to establish a plan that would manage both water quality and quantity issues in the South Loup River Basin. The meeting in Arnold Wednesday, Septem-

ber 2 drew about 25 people to the town's community center.

LLNRD Water Modeling Coordinator Tylr Naprstek told the group that water quality issues were high levels of e Coli bacteria, high nitrate levels, nutrients and sedimentation

problems. He said that the quantity problems involve lower levels of both surface water and groundwater.

To identify the lower water levels, the group saw data on declining levels from hydrographs at various locations on

the South Loup River and a map showing land use and irrigation. Some of the hydrograph numbers dated back to the 1930s, giving some historical perspective on river flows.

Adam Rupe of JEO in Lincoln, the consultant group hired to develop the plan, told the stakeholders that a lot of data has already been compiled, including information on the watershed, assessments of the streams, a hydrologic analysis, pollutant sources and a public survey.

Rupe said the public survey was undertaken to gauge public opinion and understanding of the issues. It sought input on current land treatments and their success rate, and on potential best management practices that are currently in use and those that could be implemented to reduce quantity and quality issues.

The project includes four NRDs, the Lower Loup, Central Platte, Upper Loup and Twin Platte; and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. He said that the project area includes six communities and eight counties.

For more information on the South Loup River Basin Project, contact Naprstek at the Lower Loup NRD offices in Ord at (308) 728-3221.

## Special Election Results Next Week

Due to *The Sentinel's* printing schedule on Tuesdays, results of the September 15 special election in Arnold will appear in next week's issue. At the special election, village residents went to the polls to decide whether or not to extend Arnold's LB840 economic development plan and 1% sales and use tax.

## Bierman Selected as LEAD Fellow

Lincoln, September 9, 2015 - Blake Bierman of Arnold is among the newest members of the Nebraska LEAD Group. The 35 participants were announced by Terry Hejny, director of the Nebraska LEAD (Leadership Education/Action Development) Program, last week.

The members of Nebraska's premier two-year agricultural leadership development program are involved in production agriculture and/or agribusiness in Nebraska.

"We are proud to say that Class 35 appears to be filled with outstanding individuals from throughout the state, and I am excited to get started with them," Hejny said.

The two-year program will begin this month.

LEAD Fellows will participate in 12 monthly three-day seminars across Nebraska, a 10-day national study/travel seminar and a 14-16 day international study/travel seminar. The goal of the program is to develop problem solvers, decision makers and spokespersons for agriculture and Nebraska.

Seminar themes include leadership assessment and potential, natural resources and energy, leadership through communication, agricultural policy and finance, Nebraska's political process, global perspectives, nuclear energy, social and cultural issues, understanding and developing leadership skills, agribusiness and marketing, information technology, advances in health care and the resources and people of Nebraska's Panhandle.

## School Board Approves Budget for 2015-2016

The Arnold School Board approved a budget of \$2,650,995.37 for the 2015-2016 year at the regular meeting held on September 8. The request is up from the 2014-2015 year's asking of \$2,372,784.28.

The tax asking for the General Fund is lower than last year at 0.608015, but higher for the Special Building Fund at 0.047155.

Last year's tax rate for the General Fund was 0.6990202 and 0.024769 for the Special Building Fund.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dawn Lewis reported that winter coaching positions have changed, due to Matt Coleman no longer coaching wrestling. Clint Lewis will move from girls' basketball assistant to assist with varsity wrestling, and Andy Schwarz

will replace Mr. Lewis as the girls' basketball assistant.

The school's insurance carrier provided a report of safety issues that need to be corrected in the school. Those most pressing were gaining access for the fire alarms to alert off-site when they are set off, either manually or due to fire or smoke, and to secure a cabinet for the shop to keep flammable liquids locked up safely. The school will also be repairing steps on the west side of the building.

She also reported on NRCSA Transition goal details, which include a Future Planning goal to replace staff members and pay the incentives retiring teachers will be entitled to.

### Principal's Report

Principal Morgan reported that K-12 enrollment to start

the year is 143 students.

The ACT report was released for the Class of 2015. Arnold's class had an average composite score of 25.0. This is 3.5 points higher than the state average of 21.5. According to ACT results, 83 percent of the students were considered to be college ready in the areas of English, Algebra and Social Science. The results also stated that 67 percent of the students were college ready in Biology and overall in all four categories.

Odysseyware - an award-winning K-12 Core, Elective and CTE on-line curriculum and instructional tools - is up and going. With four licenses available through the day, the school is able to provide courses to 11 students.

One-hundred-five students attended the Homecoming

dance. Mr. Morgan thanked the Booster Club for paying for the DJ, and the parents who helped chaperone and provide food for the kids.

He also reported that:

- One-Act tryouts were held on September 8. Fifteen students attended the initial informational meeting.
- The seniors are having individual banners made to hang in the gym.
- Magazine sales are underway for Grades 8-11.
- Students K-5 attended the Nebraska State Fair on September 5.
- The first round of MAPS testing has been completed.
- There will be an early dismissal (12:00 p.m.) on October 16 to allow travel to Wolbach.

The next meeting will be held on October 13 at 8:00 p.m.

## Rotary Hosts Exchange Student from Turkey



Mert Aker toured his first sod house recently as part of the many experiences he will have as a Rotary exchange student in Arnold. (Courtesy photo)

Mert Aker, age 17, is a senior in Arnold High School. He lives in Bursa, Turkey. Bursa has three million people and is near Istanbul. His father, Melih owns a textile factory and his mother, Dilek, was an office worker for a factory that makes washing machine parts. She is presently at home raising Mert's younger brother, Aykut age 13. Mert presented Dave Crow with a tie that he had de-

signed the fabric for in his father's textile factory.

Arnold Rotary Club, District 5630 is sponsoring Mert. He is presently staying with Dave and Berni Crow. Mert arrived in Omaha on August 3. He will leave the United States sometime next summer after spending an entire school year at Arnold Public Schools. His other host families will be Irving and Melody Jennings, and

Chris and Debby Moninger. Mert is in Nebraska along with three other exchange students in District 5630. Other host towns are McCook, Hastings and Grand Island, who are sponsoring students from France, Japan and Germany. Mert said he is the lucky one to stay in the small town of Arnold. Rotary District 5630 chose the locations for the students by trying to match stu-

dent interests with the host families' interests. Mert enjoys biking and they noticed that Arnold's first host family were also bikers. He enjoys riding a mountain bike in the pastures. He can see a lot of the Arnold area by scaling the tall hills behind the Crow's home.

This is the first time for Mert to be in the United States. His family has been to many other European countries. Mert wants to improve his English speaking ability while in the United States, because it is a language used by many other countries. He began studying English in first grade, but realizes that his skills will improve greatly by being immersed in the American culture.

"I have noticed improvement in his language skills in the month that he has been with us. The idioms, local dialect and pronunciations that we use contribute to the 'language barrier.' He is anxious to be fluent, but it is a full time job, and he has asked us to correct his errors. I told him that he's living with a 'grammar nazi,' so he will be corrected if that's what he wants. However, I have found that I've become familiar with his speaking and 'forget' to correct him occasionally," Berni said.

Mert likes the small town and countryside and says he can see the stars better than in Bursa because of factory pollution. He sat out on the porch in the first rain storm watching the amazing lightening display, and he enjoys the country view from the Crow home. Bursa is

Turkey's biggest industrial zone, so it is a big change for him. He thoroughly enjoys mowing the lawn and keeps the Crow's yard looking quite nice. As a lover of BEEF, it's great to be in Nebraska!

"He did bring two Turkish cookbooks, so I'm looking forward to experiencing Turkish cuisine," Berni said.

At Arnold school, Mert's favorite class is American History. School has been somewhat of a challenge for him because of the aforementioned "language barrier." In his school in Turkey, his classes were "lectures." There is more interaction with parent/student in Nebraska schools, and he is working hard at making the adjustment. Mert was a skilled swimmer in his school earning several medals in speed swimming. He enjoys water sports and snow sports, and is considering going out for track and field. Mert will be helping the One Act team behind the scenes and his present host mom is trying to convince him to compete on the Forensics team.

The atmosphere of a Nebraska Football game was a fun experience for him, but it was difficult to understand the rules. He knows that it will be more fun, once he has a better command of the English language. He said that when he researched Nebraska before his arrival, he realized that Nebraska Cornhuskers were a "big thing." The best experience so far is riding a mountain bike in the steep hills of Nebraska.